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THE
PILGRIM:
OR,
A PICTURE OF LIFE.
VOL. I.



THE
PILGRIM:
OR,
A PICTURE OF LIFE.
IN
A SERIES OF LETTERS,
Written mostly from LONDON by
A CHINESE PHILOSOPHER,
TO
HIS FRIEND AT QUANG-TONG.

CONTAINING
REMARKS upon the LAWS, CUSTOMS, and MAN-
NERS of the ENGLISH and other NATIONS.

Illustrated by a Variety of curious and interesting
ANECDOTES, AND CHARACTERS
DRAWN FROM REAL LIFE.

*Quicquid agunt Homines, Votum, Timor, Ira, Voluptas,
Gaudia, Discursus, nostri est Farrago Libelli.* JUV.

By the EDITOR of CHRYSAL.

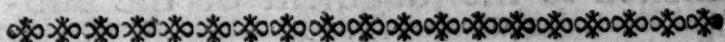
L O N D O N :

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THE
LIFE OF
A
PIONEER OF THE
LITERARY
A
GENERAL PRINCIPLES
OF
LITERATURE



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LITERATURE
BY
J. H. M. J. J.
LONDON
PUBLISHED BY
J. H. M. J. J.



Prefatory Advertisement.

THE following letters are part of a collection, written by a person who lived long in England, where his face was known in every place of genteel resort, though, from the plainness of his appearance and his modest behaviour, few people ever asked his name.

What

What may be their merit is submitted to the judgment of the publick ! The Editor only begs leave to say, That if he could have depended upon his own, so far as to have ventured publishing the collection together, they would appear to much greater advantage than in this divided state ; many of these now published losing much of their force for want of the consequences, which follow in the order of time, in the following letters ; not to mention how much more interesting these must be, as they approach

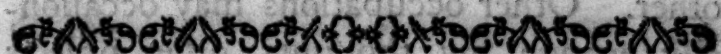
proach to our own times, the most remarkable occurrences of which, in that particular line which shews the character of a people they represent, with a freedom and candour scarcely to be hoped for from a person not so totally unconnected with the parties as this writer was.

How these letters came into the hands of the Editor were in vain to say at present ; the fictitious accounts usually prefixed to publications of this period having obviated the credit of such as may be true :

but should the reception these meet with encourage him to publish the rest, that and several other particulars relating to them, not unworthy of the attention of the curious, shall then be fully explained.

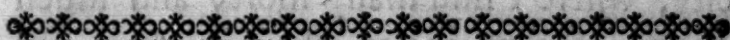


THE



THE
PILGRIM:

O R,
A PICTURE OF LIFE, &c.



LETTER I.

The Pilgrim CHOANG
To the most illustrious CHANG-TI
Supreme Mandarin of the Province of
QUANG-TONG.

AN hour hath not elapsed, since I parted from the friend of my heart; and now I sit down to write to him, with as much eagerness, as if we had been separated for many years. Blessed be the memory of him, who blessed mankind with this comfort under the severest of all the woes of human life! this method of continuing the conversation of friends, after they are torn from each

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other.

other. Other occupations may occasionally engage my thoughts, other objects of necessity occupy my time; but whenever my soul can retire into itself to seek for happiness, it will be in this method of conversing with you.

I have taken possession of the habitation appointed for me in this travelling city, where I find many more, and much greater conveniencies, than its size, and the number of its inhabitants gave me reason to expect, so that all your friendly fears on that account were groundless.

I stood upon the deck, while the ship was loosed from the shore, and given to the winds. How strongly does the eagerness in every look and action of all around me, shew what I shall feel, when I once more shall turn my face to my native home; to all which I hold dear in life!

But perhaps these interruptions are necessary to keep the powers of enjoyment
in

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in proper order! Perhaps their edge would be blunted——

Ruler of heaven! What doth thy creature ail?—My head turns round—My eyes swim—Oh! farewell, my friend!—Farewel—Perhaps for ever.—†

* * * * *

After suffering all the pains of death, for seven wretched days and nights, without the wished relief of dying, I arise from my bed, as to a new life, the first-fruits of which I thus dedicate to that friendship, which is its greatest blessing.

The winds had scarcely filled the sails, and set the ship in motion, when I found myself sinking under an universal depression, such as I had never known before. An happy stranger to all those ailments,

† These breaks, which occur frequently, appear to have been designed to mark what was written at one time; as some of the letters take in the occurrences of many months, which were evidently written as soon as they happened, as in a journal.

by which intemperance is justly made its own punishment, I naturally concluded, that what I felt was a sickness of my soul, at being separated from thee, its dearer half; and therefore retired directly to my apartment, to seek the proper medicine, in writing to you.

But alas ! I soon found, that my sickness was not confined to my soul, severely as that suffered. The whole œconomy of nature was inverted: and I expected nothing less, than its instant dissolution. Reason alone retained its powers, in some degree; but whether that was not rather an aggravation than a relief of my sufferings, is a question not easy to be resolved; as it added to the misery of sickness, the mortification of seeing it treated with ridicule, by the inhuman creatures round me. The Commander of the ship alone sometimes offered me a few words of consolation; but they always failed of effect, because he treated my sufferings with contempt.

Surely

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Surely the feelings of the human heart are as different as the tinctures of the skin. Had I seen the most loathed of brute animals suffer, as I have suffered, I should have shewn it more compassion, than the people I am among have shewn to me.

* * * * *

How unjust are the judgments which we form, while under the immediate influence of passion! I represented these people as devoid of human feeling, because they had not seemed to sympathize with me in my sufferings; and particularly the Commander, for having treated them with indifference, at the time when I expected they would end in instant death.

But that representation was injurious. They slighted my sickness, not from disregard to me, but because they knew by experience that it was inevitable; that it was not attended with danger; and would soon be at an end; every man, who saw me, having endured the same, at his first breathing the briny exhalations of the
B 3 sea,

sea, instead of the balmy essences of all the various vegetables, fruits, and flowers, with which nature hath so richly covered the earth, for the sustenance and solace of human kind.

You must not reproach me for this sudden change of my opinion. Justice demanded it; nor would I to save the imaginary shame of retraction erase a charge, which I thought just when I made it. I pretend not to infallibility! Besides, I have promised you to write the genuine impression of the moment, without any reserve for future information.

Away with reserve or caution between us. My letters shall represent my mind, as faithfully as the mirror doth my face. Whether you will receive pleasure or improvement from the representation, I pretend not to say. Perhaps it may afford both to trace the mind through all its errors; and contemplate the struggles between truth and falsehood, for dominion over it. At least, you will be certain, that

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that you have a *Picture of Life*, drawn without intention to deceive; as to read the heart of man, in his actions, is the end, which I propose, by this *Pilgrimage*.

We arrived, without any sinister accident, at Bengal, a town built by these sons of industry, on the sea-coast of the country of Mogulstan, for the purpose of carrying on their commerce. The place differs not materially from the description you have heard of it, nor the people from those of them, who have come among us.

I shall resume my voyage to-morrow and at the time you receive this letter, be, if alive, following the sun, in his daily course, over that vast body of waters, which roll between the eastern and the western worlds.

LETTER II.

I Write again to my friend from the bottom of the great deep; my lanching out upon which hath been attended with sickness as before, though neither so violent, nor of such long continuance.

I know not, however, whether that is not overbalanced by a change in my situation, having given up my former apartment to a female, who goes in company with us. I was not obliged to do her this courtesy, but my tenderness for her sex would not suffer me to see her struggling with inconveniencies, which I thought myself better able to support.

Our company is also increased by three men of her country; but though they had it better in their power to have paid her a like compliment, their consequence in their own eyes was too great to permit their shewing regard to any but themselves.

The

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The whimsical sage who defined man "an animal to be laughed at," was certainly in the right. There is not one of his pursuits, one of his actions, perhaps not one of his sufferings, which stripped of the false colourings of prejudice, and viewed in its native simplicity, is not a just object of ridicule.

Such you know were always my sentiments. I laughed at those things which struck others with horror or admiration. But possibly, what I may seem by this to attribute to reflection was only the instantaneous effect of temper; the real source of more of our sentiments than we are ourselves aware.

In no instance do the customs of the inhabitants of different parts of the world differ more, than in the intercourses between the sexes.

These younger children of nature, who dwell in the regions of the setting sun, are obliged by the religion they profess, to connect themselves for life, in single

pairs, one female with one male; at the same time, that the sexes converse together as promiscuously, as if no particular attachment was ever thought of among them.

It should be supposed, that a connection, formed thus for life, and on which its happiness must necessarily depend in so great a measure, should be an object of the greatest care; but on the contrary, as far as I can learn, there is no transaction of life conducted with so little regard to its consequences. Indeed their conduct, in relation to it, is so absurd, that it should seem the connection was no more, than a matter of meer amusement.

I have just hinted at these remarks, as necessary to prevent your taking the following history of my female fellow-passenger for a meer fiction, from its contrariety to our manners.

There is no circumstance of life, which so suddenly conciliates an attachment between

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tween two persons, as their sharing in the same sufferings.

Though this female had before traversed the great ocean, her sickness in the beginning of her present voyage, was not less, sure, than mine; and lasted longer, in consequence perhaps of the superior strength of my constitution.

As the places, appointed for our rest, were close to each other, we could not be unacquainted with our mutual sufferings; nor avoid feeling for them, from what we felt ourselves.

The first object of my attention therefore, as soon as I was able to attend to any thing, was to give her every little assistance in my power. She was not insensible of my care; and in return gave me her utmost confidence.

There is something inexpressibly pleasing in the conversation of women, exclusive of every consideration of sex. Our sympathy was soon improved into friend-

ly attachment ; and imperceptibly to ourselves we chose each other's society, in preference to that of the rest of our company, whose conversation turned chiefly on matters of commerce, equally unintelligible and uninteresting to us.

Having heard it hinted, on her first coming into the ship, that there was something singular in her story, I took occasion, one night, as we sat together on the deck, at a distance from the rest of our companions, to intimate a desire of being acquainted with it.

My request seemed at first to embarrass her not a little. She hesitated ; and then answered blushing, that the account I desired could not but be distressing to her to relate, as it would lay her under the necessity of unfolding many things, which the partiality of human nature to ourselves, would prompt her rather to conceal ; however, to shew her sense of my courtesy, she would undertake the painful task ; saying which, she paused for a few moments, and then began her story,

story, which I shall repeat in her own words.

“ You are no stranger to the country
“ from which I come. My father was
“ the younger son of a family of distinction, by whose interest he obtained
“ an employment at court, after he had
“ dissipated his own little patrimony, in
“ those pleasurable pursuits which make
“ the business of what is called Genteel
“ Life.

“ The profits of his employment, tho’
“ not inconsiderable, were barely sufficient to support the state of it; so
“ that, far from being able to make any
“ provision for his family, his utmost
“ care could do no more, than just support the necessary appearance of the
“ day. But while he was engaged in
“ this struggle between poverty and pride,
“ they, who were most nearly interested
“ in his situation had no sense of the
“ danger of it.

“ My

“ My mother, who had been the choice
“ of his inclination, was so intoxicated by
“ the glitter with which she was sur-
“ rounded, that she was incapable of
“ looking forward for herself, much less
“ for me, who happily was her only
“ child.

“ While her life was one round of
“ idle amusement and vanity, I was
“ instructed in all the showy accomplish-
“ ments which fill the circle of female
“ education in the higher rank, and
“ taught to look down with contempt
“ upon every art of real use; so that
“ when we were awakened from this
“ dream of happiness by the death of
“ my father, I was as unqualified to
“ struggle through the state I was plung-
“ ed into, as the moment I was born; the
“ trappings of our finery being scarce-
“ ly sufficient to pay his debts.

“ My mother's heart had been too
“ much wedded to her late rank to sup-
“ port this reverse. She soon sunk un-
“ der it, leaving me friendless and alone
“ in

“ in the world ; the haughtiness with
“ which we bore our state, having kept
“ all beneath it at such a distance, that
“ they now only insulted our fall ; while
“ our former intimates shewed that their
“ attachment was only to that state. I
“ was saved from the horrors of want,
“ by the uncommon virtue of a person
“ to whom my father had given an in-
“ considerable employment under him-
“ self, from which low beginning he had
“ advanced himself by prudence, dili-
“ gence, and honesty to a station of in-
“ dependence and respect.

“ This worthy person, the moment he
“ heard of my father's death, came and
“ offered us his assistance ; as he had
“ long foreseen the misery into which we
“ must necessarily fall.

“ But such was the false pride, the
“ infatuation of my mother's heart, that
“ she rejected his offers with disdain, as
“ an insult to her, because he had once
“ been her servant ; and so powerful, I
“ take the shame to myself to own, was
“ the

“ the influence of her conduct upon me ;
“ that when, after her death, he came
“ and repeated his offer to me, my heart
“ revolted against eating at the same ta-
“ ble with him, though I knew not where
“ else to eat.

“ But his virtue was superior to this
“ wretched ingratitude. He affected to
“ consider the fullness of pride, as the
“ insensibility of grief ; and returned my
“ insolence with the most respectful con-
“ solation, till by degrees he opened my
“ eyes, and brought me to some sense of
“ myself.

“ But all he could do was no more
“ than a temporary relief. He had a
“ family which claimed his care ; tho’
“ even if he had been at liberty to have
“ bestowed upon me all the acquisitions
“ of his life, I could have tasted no
“ happiness in a place, where every ob-
“ ject reminded me of a state after which
“ my heart still languished. This dif-
“ position of mind prompted me on to ac-
“ cept, without hesitation, a proposal,
“ which

“ which my benefactor, who read my
 “ soul, soon found an opportunity of
 “ making to me,

“ A merchant, with whom he was
 “ connected, had received a letter from
 “ a correspondent in India, desiring him
 “ to seek out a female answering his de-
 “ scription, and send her to him for a
 “ wife.

“ Though it was evident that the ac-
 “ ceptance of such a proposal must be
 “ the meer effect of the most desperate
 “ poverty, my friend, whose partial re-
 “ gard ascribed to me every qualification
 “ required by the description, palliated
 “ the disgrace in so delicate a manner,
 “ and blazoned the advantages, which
 “ might result from my acceptance, in
 “ such tempting colours, that I closed
 “ with the proposal, without venturing
 “ to enquire farther into it. It seemed to
 “ open a possibility of my recovering the
 “ state from which I had fallen; and
 “ that, however improbable, outweighed
 “ every objection.

“ Nor

“ Nor did his friendship stop here.
“ He supplied me, in the most ample
“ manner, with all the ornaments neces-
“ sary to set the gifts of nature in the
“ most advantageous light, and strike
“ the fancy at first view.

“ Thus supplied, and thus recom-
“ mended, I was consigned to my un-
“ known purchaser, with circumstances,
“ essentially little differing from those
“ of a common roll of merchandize.

“ I see your surprise at a transaction, the
“ absurdity of which strikes myself no
“ less at this moment. But it was my
“ happiness at the time, that I was in-
“ capable of examining any thing which
“ had the least appearance of affording
“ me relief.

“ I shall not trouble you with the de-
“ scription of a voyage, in which there
“ occurred nothing uncommon; nor of
“ my own thoughts during the time!
“ Indeed they are beyond description.

“ On

“ On the day of our arrival at the place
“ of our destination, at the place where
“ I was going with my eyes open to put
“ every real happiness of life into the
“ balance against vanity and false am-
“ bition, I arrayed myself in the manner
“ which I thought most likely to strike
“ the Lord of my fate, whom I expect-
“ ed every moment to come, and take a
“ view of his purchase. But alas! I
“ had still more mortifications to go
“ through than I had accounted for.
“ After having waited some time, in
“ a state of impatience and suspense not
“ possible to be described, the Comman-
“ der of the ship at length received a
“ letter from my merchant, informing
“ him, that since he had sent his order
“ for a wife, he had changed his mind
“ on the subject, and having met with a
“ friend, who was willing to take the la-
“ dy off his hands, he had parted with
“ his property in her on saving terms,
“ and therefore desired she might be de-
“ livered to the bearer.”

Oh,

Oh, my friend! do I live to write to you again? What scenes have I seen! In how many various shapes has the King of terrors stared me in the face, since I ended the paragraph preceding this?

All the winds of heaven have been let loose together upon the sea, which rose in mountains to oppose them. This moment have our heads been wrapped in the clouds! the next have we been swallowed in the great abyss. Ye powers of heaven, how strong must be the love of gain, to make men make a trade of tempting their fate in such a frightful form?

But now a moment, and the whole scene is changed. The moon, shining on the bosom of the waters, presents a view as bright and placid, as the former was turbulent and imbrowned with horror. O! Lord of nature! thou Ruler of the elements, how wonderfully is thy power displayed in all thy various works?

Will

Will my friend permit me to say, that my soul could contemplate this scene, unmoved: could contemplate the glory of its author, amid all the terrors with which he was clad.

But alas! how different were the feelings of most of my companions! It gave me pain to see the human soul debased by such fears, as glared in almost every face around me; while the effects, in which those fears broke out, were often so despicably ridiculous as to extort laughter in the midst of so much danger.

My female friend alone shewed a spirit worthy of a creature endowed with reason. Instead of betraying any signs of fear, she fell upon her knees, and raising her hands and eyes in rapture, returned thanks to heaven; for having spared her, till she was thus properly resigned to its pleasure, and prepared to meet it.

In this account, I must not be understood to include the mariners. Far from shewing

shewing fear, they seemed to think of nothing but their work; and that without more concern than at any other time. Can this be the force of habit? or are these islanders endowed by nature with a greater contempt of the dangers of an element, so necessary to them, than all the rest of mankind.

How contradictory to each other can a few moments make our wishes? At the hour of evening, every heart panted, every eye was lifted up to Heaven for a cessation of the winds, which roared around us; and now, before the circle of the day is half compleat, we look with listless dejection at the calmness of the sea, and languish for a friendly breeze to speed us in our course. I will just indulge nature with a little rest, and then resume the story of my female fellow passenger.

* * * * *

I was interrupted, where she had informed me of the Commander of the ship's receiving a letter from the person to whom she was sent, to acquaint him with his having transferred her to another.

“ The

“ The Commander,” (I continue to use her words) “ although unused to the
“ melting mood, could not read this
“ strange letter, without feeling for me.
“ He entered the cabin in which I sat,
“ panting with anxiety and suspense;
“ and, prefacing a few words to prepare
“ me for such a stroke, gave me the letter.

“ I shall not pretend to describe what
“ I felt, at such an indignity. Suffice it
“ to say, that after giving vent to rage,
“ indignation, and grief, I at length made
“ a virtue of necessity, and submitted to
“ a fate which I could not avoid; encouraged indeed by the humanity of
“ the Commander, who, as soon as I was
“ capable of attending to what he said,
“ congratulated me on a change, which
“ he assured me, from his own knowledge,
“ was in every respect to my advantage.

“ To shorten a recital, which must be
“ as uninteresting to you, as it is painful
“ to me, I went on shore with my new
“ owner, who happening not to dislike
“ his

“ his bargain, I was married to him in a
“ few days after.

“ The humiliation, which I at first
“ suffered in my own eyes, was soon
“ effaced by the pomp with which my
“ marriage was solemnized. Nor was the
“ circumstance itself, of my having been
“ rejected by my first inviter, beheld in
“ that light, by the people among whom
“ I was. Former instances had recon-
“ ciled them to it; and I, for the first
“ time, experienced that the ridicule in
“ which many things are held, depends
“ meerly upon custom.

“ This magnificence, which the wealth
“ of my husband enabled him to support
“ without any charge of imprudence,
“ ended not with our wedding. As the
“ style of life, in which I had been bred,
“ was known, it was his pride to see me
“ display a taste and elegance in all our
“ schemes of pleasure, which had never
“ been seen there before; a gross profu-
“ sion of expence being the only thing
“ which had, till then, distinguished the
“ highest

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“ highest from the lowest classes of the
“ people

“ Such a life was so exactly suited to
“ my wish, that the misfortunes, which
“ had led me to it, seemed but the shadow of a dream,

“ But, alas! I was too soon awoke to
“ an unhappy remembrance of them.
“ You may have heard of the dreadful
“ fate of a number of our people, who,
“ in the late war with the natives, having
“ surrendered themselves prisoners on
“ public faith, were thrown into a dungeon,
“ so narrow, that much the greater
“ part of them were suffocated.

“ I shall draw a veil over a scene, from
“ the remembrance of which imagination
“ starts back affrighted; and only say,
“ that my husband was in the number of
“ those, who perished on that unhappy
“ occasion.”

A flood of tears here choaked her utterance. She covered her face; and having

given vent to her grief for some moments, thus resumed her story.

“I am conscious, that this tribute, which my heart pays to the memory of a man whom it truly loved, may, from the circumstance of our marriage, appear to be no more than affectation.

“But it is too severe to suspect sincerity, where dissimulation can have no end in view. His virtues commanded my esteem; and that soon warmed into an affection, not less tender, and in general more solid and lasting, than that which is first founded on inclination. The tender care of my husband had removed me, in time, from this scene of destruction; but the account soon reached me, and was almost as soon followed by the consequences. I fell in an instant from the highest of human happiness, to the lowest misery.

“A

“ A great part of my husband’s wealth
“ had fallen, along with him, into the
“ hands of our savage enemies ; and what
“ remained was in the possession of vari-
“ ous persons, in different places, who
“ might take advantage of the distraction
“ of the times to avoid giving them up to
“ me.

“ I wonder still, how I was able to
“ support such a shock. But the truth
“ is, our sex is spoiled by too much in-
“ dulgence. Our strength is not known,
“ even to ourselves, because never put
“ to trial.

“ I instantly saw all the difficulties of
“ my situation ; and that I must either
“ struggle through them by my own
“ strength, or sink : all those from whom,
“ in quieter times, I might have expected,
“ and perhaps received assistance, having
“ every power of mind and body engaged
“ for themselves. Grief, I mean the
“ unavailing expression of it, gave place
“ to necessity. The occasion called for
“ resolution, and I found it.

“ Dangerous! desperately dangerous
“ as it was to attempt travelling in a
“ country over-run by such enemies, I
“ resolved, the very day after I had re-
“ ceived the account of my husband’s
“ death, to go directly to one of our most
“ distant settlements, where I knew he
“ had effects of considerable value, in the
“ hands of a person whose probity I
“ greatly doubted; in hope of getting
“ there before he could have time to
“ secret them from me, in case such
“ should be his purpose.

“ As I could not secure a guard suffi-
“ cient to protect me if I travelled pub-
“ licly, I set out attended only by a
“ single native who was well acquainted
“ with the way, and had been attached
“ to my husband by many acts of benefi-
“ cence; throwing myself entirely upon
“ the protection of Heaven.

“ The difficulties of travelling in
“ such a country, can be conceived only
“ by those who have experienced them.
“ After twenty days, or rather nights,

“ of inexpressible fatigue and affright,
“ (possibly indeed, the latter enabled me
“ to support the former, by keeping my
“ attention constantly fixed upon self-pre-
“ servation) I arrived within sight of the
“ place of my destination; a place,
“ though, which I was not destined to
“ reach, without sufferings still more se-
“ vere than any I had yet undergone;
“ being surprized by a party of the ene-
“ my, who were strolling along the
“ country in search of prey.

“ Every new misfortune seems worse
“ than all the past. I now thought my-
“ self utterly undone. Indeed imagination
“ can frame no state more truly terrible,
“ than that into which I was fallen; a
“ captive to savages, who knew no use
“ of their power, but to make the un-
“ happy subjects of it suffer every misery
“ which the vicious ingenuity of man can
“ devise.

“ I saw all the horrors of my situation;
“ and waited for my fate in the stupe-
“ faction of affright. But the ready fide-

“ lity of my attendant, in the very mo-
“ ment when the wretches were tearing
“ off my clothes to gratify their wanton
“ cruelty, gave a turn to their passions;
“ which saved me for that instant, and
“ threw my misfortunes into a different
“ train.

“ He informed them, that I was the
“ wife of the Governor of one of our
“ settlements, who would certainly pay
“ the highest ransom for my liberty, if I
“ was restored to him without injury.

“ The name he mentioned added weight
“ to his scheme. That Governor being
“ respected for his virtues, by those who
“ held the rest of his countrymen in de-
“ testation, they instantly desisted from
“ all violence, and restoring my clothes,
“ conveyed me, with all the respect they
“ knew how to pay, to their Comman-
“ der.

“ But alas! the same motives had not
“ the same weight with him; something
“ in

“ in my appearance happening unfortu-
“ nately to strike his fancy.

“ Had he rested my compliance on
“ threats of instant death, it would have
“ been no great sacrifice to virtue to pre-
“ fer it to a life which had nothing even
“ in remotest prospect to endear it. But
“ the alternative was not left to me.
“ He scarce waited for a refusal, before
“ he proceeded to force.

“ Though my sufferings were not to
“ end here, the circumstances which
“ attended them became in some degree
“ less shocking. By the caprice of my
“ fate, the passion of my ravisher seemed
“ to be encreased by gratification; but
“ it was at the same time softened into
“ something like respect. He forbore
“ all future repetitions of force, and
“ endeavoured to inspire me with a re-
“ turn of his passion, by offices of ten-
“ derness, and professions of regard; and
“ the better to effect his purpose, con-
“ veyed me to a fortress which he com-
“ manded with sovereign power, in a
“ far

“ far distant province of those immense
“ regions.

“ How long this moderation might
“ have continued, I cannot say, had not
“ Heaven sent me the timely aid of a
“ severe fit of sickness, into which I was
“ thrown by such accumulated fatigue
“ and distress, the very night after I
“ arrived at the fortress.

“ A sensibility to gratitude is imprinted
“ by nature on the human heart. I was
“ affected by the tender anxiety he
“ shewed for my recovery; my acknow-
“ ledgments of which he received with
“ rapture, as an earnest of that love,
“ with which he wished to inspire me.

“ The operations of the war calling
“ him away before I was perfectly re-
“ covered, he left me with evident re-
“ spect, ordering my commands to be
“ obeyed as implicitly as his own in
“ every instance, except for my departure
“ from him.

“ Unhappy

“ Unhappy as my present situation
“ really was, that unhappiness fell so far
“ short of my fears, that I ventured to
“ raise my eyes to hope of still farther re-
“ lief, though I knew not whither to look
“ for it.

“ With the first dawn of this hope,
“ my health began to return; and I soon
“ recovered both strength and spirits to
“ observe the scene around me.

“ The fortress was situated on the sum-
“ mit of a mountain, which overlooked
“ the country round as far as the eye
“ could reach.

“ The art and industry of ages had
“ been exerted to enable it to resist exter-
“ nal force, and at the same time supply
“ the wants of its inhabitants.

“ In the midst of it arose a fountain,
“ whose copious overflowing was the
“ source of a most beautiful river; the
“ ponds were stored with fish, the fields
“ with cattle, and the habitations sur-

“ rounded by all the various kinds of
“ domestic fowls necessary for the use
“ of man, so spacious was the inclosure ;
“ and it was also so well prepared for de-
“ fence, that the very people it sustained
“ were sufficient to repel the united force
“ of the East. Once had it been con-
“ quered by Alexander, and only by him ;
“ nor then through the weakness of the
“ place, but through the cowardice and
“ neglect of the Commander.

“ But my subjects came more imme-
“ diately under my observation than my
“ dominions ; for a sovereign I was in
“ every sense, as much as the Mogul ;
“ my orders, in all things respecting my-
“ self, being implicitly obeyed by all who
“ approached me.

“ The novelty of such a scene kept my
“ curiosity employed for some time ; but
“ no sooner was that satisfied, than the
“ sameness palled upon me.

“ I had no employment for reason, no
“ conversation to relieve thought. The
“ very

“ very few words, which I had learned of
“ their language, served sufficiently for
“ all the intercourse I could have with
“ my female companions, whose ideas
“ were as limited as the place of their
“ habitation, beyond which, they knew
“ no more of the world, or its ways, than
“ the hour they came into it.

“ They were occupied solely in the
“ works of domestic œconomy. Their
“ only ambition was to please their hus-
“ bands, when at home with them; nor
“ had they a sense of any duty, besides
“ their will. As their life was devoted
“ to labour, they wished for no recrea-
“ tion but rest; all the time they could
“ spare to which, was spent in bathing,
“ or sleeping in the shade.

“ Unhappy as such a situation natu-
“ rally appeared to me at first, it soon
“ laid the foundation of the only true
“ happiness I had ever known. For
“ want of exterior engagements, my
“ mind was forced to turn in its powers
“ upon itself. I examined my past life.

“ I traced my misfortunes to their true
“ source ; and I resolved to seek happi-
“ ness, by treading back the steps which
“ had led me into misery.

“ As I had no temptation to combat
“ this resolution, I found the performance
“ of it less difficult than I had apprehen-
“ ded. The prospect cleared up the
“ moment I set out; and every step I
“ advanced was rewarded with some new
“ happiness, till at length I was able to
“ thank Heaven, with a sincere heart, for
“ the misfortunes which had opened the
“ way to this happy change.

“ I had continued in this state for seve-
“ ral months, so well reconciled to my
“ situation, that I had not a wish to
“ change it, except what arose from ap-
“ prehension of the Chief's repeating his
“ violence on his return, as I was firmly
“ resolved never to submit to his sollicita-
“ tions.

“ At length the dreaded day arrived.
“ He returned, crowned with victory,
“ and

“ and loaded with wealth, all of which
“ he laid at my feet, with the most
“ passionate professions of love.

“ My condition was now truly dis-
“ tressful. I knew it was my duty to re-
“ fuse him! I feared, from sad experi-
“ ence, that my refusal would not only
“ be in vain, but would also draw far-
“ ther evils upon me. But still, I re-
“ solved to throw myself on the pro-
“ tection of Heaven, and hazard every
“ thing, rather than commit one evil to
“ avoid another, however great.

“ Not to provoke my fate though,
“ by precipitation, I expressed a grateful
“ sense of the honour he offered me; and
“ promised to return him an answer the
“ next day, which I hoped would meet
“ his approbation.

“ The agitation of my mind, during
“ that horrid interval, is scarcely to be
“ conceived. I wished for death, as the
“ only relief I thought possible; but I
“ did

“ did not dare to fly to it of myself. At
“ length I formed the resolution to which
“ I was to trust my fate.

“ When he came to my tent the next
“ evening, glowing with impatience for
“ an answer, which he doubted not of
“ finding favourable to his wishes, I
“ threw myself at his feet, and, bedewing
“ them with my tears, begged that he
“ would hear the unhappy story of my
“ life, before he repeated a request, with
“ which that would prove the impossibi-
“ lity of my complying.

“ Surprized at an address so unexpected,
“ it was some moments before he had
“ power to raise me from his feet; when,
“ seating me at his side, he attended, with
“ the strongest anxiety in his looks, to
“ what I should say.

“ As soon as I had recovered the power
“ of utterance, I gave him a short account
“ of my life, never violating truth by
“ the addition of a single circumstance,
“ though

“ though I did not think myself under
 “ the same obligation to relate more,
 “ than I thought proper for my present
 “ honest purpose ; for which reason, when
 “ I informed him whose wife I really
 “ was, I mentioned not the death of my
 “ husband.

“ He heard me with uninterrupted
 “ attention, shewing, by the changes in
 “ his countenance, how deeply he sym-
 “ pathized in the various changes of my
 “ fortune, till I mentioned my husband’s
 “ name ; on hearing which he started from
 “ his seat, and, fixing his eyes steadfastly
 “ upon me for a few moments, fetched
 “ a deep sigh, and then left me, without
 “ saying a word ; nor did I either see or
 “ hear more from him till the next even-
 “ ing.

“ In the mean time I felt a serenity of
 “ mind, which I myself was surprized at.
 “ Consciousness of having done my duty,
 “ inspired me with a resolution to meet
 “ the consequence, be it what it might,
 “ which

“ which no other motive could have
“ given.

“ About the same hour the next even-
“ ing, the Chief sent to desire I would
“ meet him by the side of a canal which
“ watered the garden, in the middle of
“ which my tent was raised.

“ I obeyed his summons without hesita-
“ tion, though I could not avoid trem-
“ bling for the event as I approached
“ him; which he no sooner perceived,
“ than, addressing me with a look of me-
“ lancholy tenderness and respect, he de-
“ sired me to sit down, and lay aside
“ fears for which there was no founda-
“ tion.

“ When we had sat some moments
“ in silence, ‘ What you have already
“ suffered,’ said he, with a sigh, which
“ seemed to have burst his heart, ‘ was
“ owing solely to my ignorance of you.
“ Had I known whose wife you were,
“ my soul would have paid you the same
“ reve-

THE PILGRIM.

41

“ reverence, as to the mother who bore
“ me in her womb. He saved the life
“ of my father, when the hand of the
“ executioner was raised to slay him!
“ He saved my own life, while yet an
“ helpless infant! Nor shall any act of
“ mine ever, designedly, give him reason
“ to repent of his goodness.

“ The sacrifice which I thus offer to
“ gratitude costs me dear, but my happi-
“ ness shall not make my benefactor un-
“ happy. I will convey you tomorrow
“ to the settlement near to which I found
“ you; and strive by my future, to obli-
“ terate my past conduct.”

“ It is not possible to express how I
“ was affected by these words. I would
“ have thrown myself at the feet of my
“ generous benefactor; but he foresaw,
“ and prevented my design.

“ As soon as I had given some ease to
“ the fulness of my heart by a flood of
“ tears, I endeavoured to express my
“ grati-

“ gratitude, in the best manner I was
“ able; but he put an end to the sweetly-
“ painful scene, by going to give orders
“ about our departure.

“ As the war, which had ravaged
“ those countries, was now ended, our
“ journey was far from being disagree-
“ able; my protector having provided
“ every accommodation, which those
“ countries could afford, in the most
“ plenteous manner.

“ Nor did his generosity stop here.
“ As soon as we came within sight of the
“ place of our destination, he took leave
“ of me with a respectful, but melancholy
“ air; saying, that he had some private
“ reasons for not going farther; but that
“ his people would attend me to the end
“ of my journey; adding, that he had
“ taken the liberty to send with me some
“ tokens of his esteem, which he hoped
“ I would not refuse to accept.

“ My heart was too full of my present
“ happiness to think farther about the
“ pre-

“ presents, which he had mentioned, for
 “ some days after my arrival : but judge
 “ you what was my surprize, what were
 “ the sentiments, the gratitude of my
 “ soul, to find a casket filled with jewels
 “ of such value, as satisfied every wish of
 “ my heart for wealth !

“ And happy was it for me, that his
 “ generosity was so great ! All the for-
 “ tune of my late husband being secreted
 “ in private hands, or sequestred by the
 “ publick, in such a manner, that I have
 “ never yet been able to recover the least
 “ part of it.

“ This is the history you required.
 “ If it has given you entertainment, I
 “ think myself well rewarded for a reci-
 “ tal, some parts of which, I own, gave
 “ me pain.

“ At present, I am returning to my
 “ native country, to enjoy, in a peaceful
 “ retirement, the fruits of so many diffi-
 “ culties and dangers ; for if I know my
 “ own

“ own heart, it is perfectly weaned from
“ all those follies, with which it was
“ so fully fraught when I came abroad.

“ One sanguine wish, and one only
“ have I, which is, that I may find my
“ generous benefactor, who first sug-
“ gested to me the thought of coming
“ abroad, and then enabled me to carry
“ it into execution, in order to share with
“ him the fruits of his own beneficence.
“ In respect to all the rest of human
“ kind, I hold myself a perfect stranger in
“ the world.”

The circumstances of this story, which beguiled many a tedious hour in the recital, afforded me matter for much reflection. I adored the power which can sanctify the sufferings of its creatures to their advantage, when received with a proper sense, and make virtue literally its own reward.

Nor was the instruction, which I drew from it, confined to a religious light. It gave

gave me an insight into many particulars of the conduct of mankind, which I could never have received from themselves. For, with all our boasted superiority of reason, we are surpassed by the female sex in quickness of perception, as well as in delicacy of sentiment.

* * * * *

An opportunity hath this moment offered, for transmitting this letter to you, much sooner than I could have hoped.

In the midst of the pathless ocean, we have been met by a ship of the same nation with our's, which is to proceed in the course of it's voyage, to QUANG-TONG.

The Commander promises to deliver it into your own hands; and I promise myself, that from regard to the writer, you will shew him such marks of your favour, as shall be consistent with the dignity and duty of your station.

Adieu!

Adieu! O dearest friend of my heart!
Think sometimes of the Pilgrim Cho-
ANG, who will never cease to think of
you.

trinity of reason we are surpassed by the
temple, a quickness of perception, as
well as in delicacy of sentiment, in all
which turn us out to a great length
the sea is made by manners in

searly passing through this moment
of the for transmitting the letter to
you, much sooner than I could have
hoped and nature appears to me in that
this place is better than it seems to be

in the midst of the painful existence
have been met by a ship or the same
nation with ours, which is to proceed
in the course of its voyage to
TONG.

The Commander promises to deliver
it into your own hands; and I promise
myself that from regard to the writer
LETTER him such marks of your
favour, as shall be consistent with the
dignity and duty of your station.

Adieu!

LETTER III.

I Have been again on shore, at a settlement, established by the Hollanders, on the most southern promontary of Africa, which, running out to a great length into the sea, is made by mariners an imaginary boundary between the eastern and western ocean.

Art and nature appear to vie in making this place delightful. It seems to be the garden of the universe. The choicest productions of the vegetable world are collected here from every quarter of the globe, where the happiness of the climate bring them to the highest perfection.

But men, not places, are the objects of my observation, and the men in this place are not to be known in much more time, than I am to stay among them. Their conduct is a regular system of duplicity. The only judgement which can be safely formed of them, is, that they
are

are bound by no principle, nor propose any end but their own advantage, which they scruple no means to obtain.

Instead therefore of engaging in so disagreeable a task, as it necessarily must be to observe their actions, I will avail myself of the opportunity of a ship, which is ready to sail from hence to your city, to communicate to you a secret, which, if possible, I would more willingly conceal from myself; that when these effusions of the soul of your friend shall reach you, you may be able to vindicate my honest name from wrong.

Of all my friends, you, the nearest to my heart, seemed best satisfied with my undertaking this pilgrimage; and flying thus from all the duties and endearments of nature.

The unclouded cheerfulness of my temper, the happy effect of a sound mind in a sound body, made it be universally imputed to levity, to an unsteadiness of mind, which preferred the gratification of
superficial

superficial curiosity to the more laborious pursuits of reason.

The imputation was injurious to me; but I attempted not to refute it, lest, by awakening a farther enquiry, my true motive might be hit upon, by some unlucky conjecture. For though I hold many things to be no more than folly, which severer censors call crimes, and therefore laugh where they inveigh, I am not myself the fool their outrageous virtue would represent me.

Little did my friend suspect that my happiness was poisoned in the spring; that my abandoning my native country proceeded from the very cause, which, in appearance, should have bound me most strongly to it! Little did he think that the intimacy, which distinguished the three happy pupils of Tait-song, from whose mouth dropped wisdom like the dew of the evening, should, by being strained too close, prove the cause of their separation to the opposite extremities of the earth.

To explain this, it is necessary to look back to those happy days, when the wisdom of the Sovereign of the world, who, in reward of your superior merit, retained you at the foot of his throne, created Mousab and myself Mandarins of the second order in the province of Huquain: the circumstance of our separation thus from all our former connections, and especially from you, naturally connected our friendship for each other still more closely. We seemed to be two bodies animated by one soul.

We had lived in this happy state for some time, equally admired and respected by all who knew us, when Mousab took to wife the daughter of Ching, the fame of whose beauty filled all the regions round.

I directly provided for myself a separate habitation. But Mousab would not hear of my removal. He scorned to be restrained by customs, which, he said, interfered with the intimacy of friendship,
2 and

and were utterly unnecessary among persons of virtue. I accordingly continued to reside with my friend, and conversed with his wife with the familiarity of a brother.

Customs, however absurd in their first institution, acquire such a necessity by long use, as to make any innovation dangerous. The wife of Mousab, freed so far from that restraint under which she saw the rest of her sex held, was not content without greater freedom.

Whether such unexpected liberty affected her reason, or my temper suited her's better than the graver turn of her husband, I know not; but she soon beheld me with eyes of desire, which she wanted not opportunity to let me see.

It is impossible to describe what I felt at the discovery. I thought myself criminal, in being the unhappy occasion of her crime; and instantly resolved to break off a familiarity which had been attended by such a flagitious consequence.

The difficulty was how to do this, without discovering the reason to Mousab, who was so enamoured of the beauties of his wife, that I knew he could not support the shock of her infidelity.

Too great anxiety often blunts our faculties. I revolved many schemes in my mind, without being able to fix on any which promised success; when your being promoted to the government of Quang-tong suggested that, of applying to you to procure permission for me to visit the regions of the west, in order to obtain an insight into the genius and manners of a people who carry on so extensive a commerce with the province entrusted to your care, though I foresaw the objections which would be made to it, by your friendship, as well as by the wisdom of our sovereign.

But these difficulties were not to be put in competition with the cause of my design. I therefore patiently bore your reproof, and, what was still more severe, your ridicule of the levity of my temper;
till

till my perseverance convincing you that my soul was immoveably fixed on its purpose, you at length yielded to my importunity, and obtained for me the permission I desired.

My situation in the mean time was most distressful. I was obliged to keep a guard over every action, word, and look, to avoid giving encouragement to her passion by any little offices of complaisance, or shewing her that I had discovered it, by a greater distance than usual in my behaviour; the latter of which was so painful an hypocrisy, that nothing but my regard for the happiness of my friend could have made me submit to it. As I was well aware, that should she once know she was discovered, she would no longer observe any bounds.

With this embarrassment I struggled, till I received your letter, with my wished release. I wanted but little preparation for my journey. I ordered my attendants to be ready in an hour; and then went to communicate my departure

to Mousab, who fortunately was sitting in his garden at some distance from the house.

It is impossible to describe his surprise at such unexpected news. The temper of Mousab you know is warm, and quickly susceptible of the strongest impressions. He gazed at me for some moments with a look, in which I could plainly read anger, jealousy, and contempt; then giving a loose to his passion, he upbraided in the harshest terms my want of friendship, which had concealed my intention from him; and ridiculed, as you had done, that levity of disposition from which he thought it proceeded.

I attempted not to undeceive him, because I could not speak the truth in my defence. I therefore barely besought his more favourable opinion of one, whom he had honoured with his esteem; and falling on his neck, bathed his bosom with my tears, while I bade him an adieu, which he disdained to return.

It

It was my intention to have departed without seeing the unhappy wife of my friend; but that was not in my power. My attendants having inadvertently informed her of my departure, she watched my return from her husband, and throwing herself in my way, asked me eagerly, whether it was true that I was going to forsake them.

My answer, though conceived in the coldest terms, put her off all guard. She wrung her hands; and, bursting into a flood of tears, bewailed her unhappiness in the most passionate manner.

Never was embarrassment equal to mine, lest her husband should return, and find her in such a state; as I saw she was incapable of concealing from him the cause of her affliction.

I attempted therefore to sooth her with words of friendship, and promises of a speedy return; by which I at length brought her to some degree of composure.

I blush to own a violation of truth so contrary to my sentiments, and which I well know your virtue will condemn, as this promise! But I was taken off my guard. My anxiety for the happiness of my friend, which I knew would be forever overturned by a discovery of her guilty passion, made me unable to attend to any thing else.

Having pacified her in some measure, I was just preparing to depart, when I was again prevented by the arrival of Moufab. His resentments, you know, are not more sudden, than short-lived. A moment's reflection had shewn him the unkindness of parting from me in such a manner; and he came to reconcile himself to my heart, by new endearments.

Though I trembled at every thing which delayed my departure, my heart returned his embrace with a joy not to be described. It was like the restoration of a limb, which had been broken; a part of myself, without which my existence was imperfect.

After

After an exchange of many embraces, Mousab insisted that I should make atonement to his friendship for having concealed my intention from him, by abiding one night longer under his roof.

To refuse complying with such a request, without giving the reason of my refusal, would have been an act of such unkindness, as would have justified all his reproaches. I yielded therefore with seeming willingness, though resolved, at the same time, not to let him quit me for a moment while I stayed. We devoted the remaining part of the evening therefore, and the whole night, to a review of the happy scenes of our youth, to that transfusion of soul which the sublimest friendship only can inspire.

At my departure with the first blush of the morning, the wife of Mousab bade me farewell, in the presence of her husband, without betraying any signs of improper concern; whence I pleased myself to conclude, that reason and virtue had gained the victory over her unhappy

passion; nor did I ever apprehend otherwise till yesterday, when, on opening a coffer, in which I had bestowed all the transcripts which I had made of the instructions of the Tait-song, I found among them the annexed letter * from that ill-fated woman, together with a casket containing those gems of great price which Moufab had inherited from his ancestors, and she had stolen from him and found means to convey into my coffer. Judge you, O! my friend, what must be the anguish of my soul on this discovery! The passion, which that letter breathes, is too violent to be restrained by any bonds. Gracious Heaven! before this time, the good name of your friend may be ruined! the jewel of his soul torn from him without cause.

But you, who know my heart, have not judged from appearances, however strong, against the tenour of my life. To remove, however, even the shadow of a doubt, I send you this account. Read it! and then vindicate your friend,

* *This letter does not appear.*

first

first to yourself, and after to the world ; nor let me sink under an unmerited load of infamy.

And now, that you know the melancholy reason of my undertaking this journey, can you any longer wonder at the title I have assumed? Is not he, who wanders from his native home to expiate a crime, of which he hath, however, innocently been the occasion, in the strictest sense, *a Pilgrim*?

As the man who has undertaken to deliver this letter, is of a nation who will not execute the most sacred offices of humanity without hire, I have promised him, that thou wilt pay twenty ounces of silver on the receipt of it; confident that thou wilt not think that too much to pay, for the justification of thy friend.

LETTER IV.

WE have committed ourselves again to the mercy of the winds and waves—I should rather say, of the Ruler of them; a mercy as indispensable to our safety on the summit of a mountain, as in the bosom of the great deep.

This unhappy affair sits heavy on my mind. I have lost that internal peace, which clad my face with cheerfulness. My female friend instantly perceived the change, and, without attempting to dive into the cause of my grief, exerts all her endeavours to divert my attention from it. As for the rest of my companions, their thoughts are too much engrossed by the contemplation of their own consequence, to descend to one whom they hold so far beneath them.

Of these there are three, whose characters are as oddly contrasted, as any which were ever jumbled together in the confusion of life.

The

The first, to give precedence to seniority, has worked his way from the most abject poverty to immense wealth, by every method of iniquity and oppression, which insatiable avarice could suggest to unlimited power.

His conversation is such as may be expected from a life so spent. Grossly ignorant of the most common objects of knowledge, of the most common forms of civilized intercourse, he consoles himself in his skill in the arts of acquisition, which he obtrudes upon all companies, and in the place of all other conversation.

Of nine hundred moons, which his age has compleated, he hath spent three fourths in heaping up riches, which he is now modestly going home to enjoy, tho' loaded with so many infirmities, besides those of old age, that, to human appearance, he has but little probability of reaching the end of his voyage.

The next, whom I shall describe, wants a third part of the age of the former, but

but his experience amply supplies This want of years.

His first appearance on the stage of life was in the character of a menial servant, in which he profited so well by his access to his masters, as to become a compleat copy of all the fashionable fopperies of the age; and at length, in reward for some secret services in the mystery of his profession, was sent in a lucrative employment to the country of Mogulstan, where he hath shewn himself capable of imitating the crimes as well as the follies of his superiors, and amassed a fortune, which, in the estimation of his countrymen, levels all distinctions of nature.

The character of the third, though glaring with equal absurdities, is yet different from the others in many respects.

He is a native of a country, whose meanest sons lay claim to noble birth. Ridiculous as such a claim is, when destitute of means to support it, there yet results from it this advantage, that it inspires

inspires a pride, which is often the strongest incentive to noble actions, the strongest guard to virtue. Nor is this the only advantage derived by these people from this opinion. The most indigent father finds means to give his sons a liberal education, to enable them to fill a rank equal to their birth, whenever their merit shall raise them to it; in hope of which, and encouraged in that hope by many instances of success, they all quit their native country in early youth, in order to put themselves in fortune's way in a more extended sphere.

On this principle had this person come to Mogulstan, where by unwearied industry, and not without some degree of publick merit, he has acquired riches, with which he is now returning home, elate with the honest joy of being able to reinstate his family in that splendour, of which, for many ages, they have retained only the tradition.

But with all these advantages over his companions, a shade of the ridiculous marks

marks his character as strongly as theirs; He thinks his own country to be the finest, his own family the best, and himself the most accomplished person under Heaven; and he never misses any occasion, however improper, of making his opinion known.

The clash of characters so strongly contrasted, affords matter of entertainment every hour; especially as they are prevented from coming to extremity by our Commander, a man of sense and shrewdness, who is appointed umpire, with absolute authority to determine all disputes between his passengers.

As for myself, I am a perfect blank among them. My ignorance of the usual topics of their conversation, as well as my inexpertness in their language, making it impossible for me to say any thing which they would think worthy of their notice; though, by the way, I have acquired more knowledge of their language since I have had the pleasure of conversing so intimately with this sensible woman;

man, than I should have done perhaps, in my life, without that advantage.

Not that this exempts me from some strokes of their wit. The first gibes at my poverty, the second pities my want of a polite education, and the third holds in contempt the meanness of my birth. But I console myself under all with the pleasing reflection, that, if I am destitute of these advantages, I am, at the same time, free from the other circumstances by which they are attended.

After this, you will probably be surprized to hear that I am secretly the confident of them all. As I ask them no questions, nor ever repeat a syllable that I hear, they all take a pleasure in unbosoming themselves to me; by which means I have learned all their histories from each other.

I had scarcely finished the above account of my companions, when my female friend, as if she had known what

I was

I was writing, and had a mind to complete the picture, broke in upon me, bursting with laughter.

“ Pardon me,” said she, “ this intrusion! but I could not enjoy a scene of such exquisite merriment, as I have planned, without sharing it with you. You will find it difficult to credit what I am going to tell you.

“ I have had overtures of love made to me by our three fellow-passengers; persons so widely differing from each other, that it might be thought, nothing less than a miracle could have ever reconciled them to think alike in any one instance.

“ But such scenes as this are ruined by description. Come with me, and I will place you where you shall be a witness to their trial; for I have made an appointment severally with each of them, to receive their proposals, than which I do not suppose that human folly

“folly can afford any thing more ridiculous.”

Had it even been my inclination to have refused, the vivacity of my friend would not have suffered me. She took me by the hand, before I could make any reply, and leading me into her own apartment, placed me behind a screen, where I could see and hear every thing which passed, without being seen myself.

The lady had not sat many minutes in her chair of audience, when all her lovers entered to her together.

As that was contrary to her scheme, she was, at first, somewhat at a loss how to behave; but the man of quality soon relieved her.

“Madam,” said he, presenting her his snuff-box, with a salute equally awkward and formal, “as it happens that we three aim at the same object, however unequally entitled to obtain it, we have agreed to display our several
“pretensions

“pretensions in presence of each other,
 “that no misrepresentations may mislead
 “your judgment; for nothing else I
 “think I may, without vanity, say, can
 “keep you a moment in doubt how to
 “decide between us.”

“I think so too,” said the senior,
 “when a leash of plumbs are thrown in-
 “to the scale.”

“Plumbs are pretty things,” inter-
 rupted the fine gentleman, bowing fan-
 tastically to the lady, “for those who
 “have teeth to eat them. But my good
 “friends, a lady looks not at such things.
 “The man is the thing. The beha-
 “viour of the man it is, that can please
 “her eye, and gain her approbation.
 “There are such things as balls, assem-
 “blies, masquerades, and an hundred
 “others, an acquaintance with which
 “ladies know how to prefer to plumbs,
 “or pedigrees either.”

“Pedigrees!” exclaimed the man of
 quality, starting from his chair in a rage,
 “what

“ what mean you by that allusion? I
 “ will have you to know that a man of
 “ family values himself above all the
 “ mushrooms in the world, let them be
 “ garnished as they will with foppery or
 “ wealth.”

The ferocious air, with which these words were uttered, denounced terrible war; when the Commander of the ship entered, and, with a flap of his hand upon the table, commanded silence.

As the subject of the contest had been designed to be concealed from him, his appearance struck all the competitors dumb: but the lady was not under the same restraint. She instantly availed herself of their silence; and turning to the Commander, “ I am glad you are come,
 “ Sir,” said she, “ to give me your advice in an affair, which I much doubt
 “ my own ability to determine.” Then addressing herself to the courtiers, “ Gentlemen,” she continued, “ if you please
 “ to proceed now regularly, our friend here
 “ will assist me to judge between you.”

Eager

I Eager as each of them was before, the ridiculousness of their present situation struck them too strongly to permit their proceeding. The plumb-merchant knit his brows, pouted his lips, and affected to nod, as if he did not hear her. The fine gentleman took out a pocket-glass, picked a pimple on his cheek; and then fixing his eyes upon her with a languishing ogle, "Ah madam," said he, shaking his head, and shrugging up his shoulders, "you know your own power, and triumph over your slaves!" While the man of quality, begriming all his face with his snuff in the hurry of his resentment for such an indignity, replied, "I expected, madam, that a lady of your birth and education would have made a proper distinction between persons, and paid more respect to a gentleman; but *varium et mutabile*, as the poet Virgil said"—Saying which, he clapped his hands akimbo, and swinging round on his heel, stalked majestically out of the room, followed by his competitors, one of them coughing, and the other humming a tune.

The

The Commander all this time stood gaping like the statue of Surprise, unable to conceive the meaning of what he heard and saw; till the lady at length, calling me out of my hiding-place, satisfied his curiosity, when we all joined in a loud laugh at such an unaccountable scene.

This affair threw a cloud over the gaiety of our company for some days; but the lady by her vivacity, and an equal distribution of her smiles, not only restored our former harmony, but also kept the hopes of all her courtiers alive, so as to afford an inexhaustible fund of entertainment for our whole voyage; not an hour passing, in which the plumb-merchant does not tempt her with boasting of his wealth, the fine gentleman makes her some threadbare compliment, and the man of quality gives broad hints of the honour he shall confer upon any lady, whom he shall think worthy of being introduced into his noble house, though perhaps at this very moment there is not a descendant of it, besides himself, possessed

ed of a second shirt; while the Commander, under pretence of keeping peace between them, in reality plays their follies against each other, and heightens the jest.

Thus do we beguile the tedious hours of our long passage over the great ocean. If I shall not be able, in the day of account, to shew any acts of virtue, by which they are distinguished; I hope on the other hand, that they are not stained with any crime, even in thought.

In other respects my time hath not been spent without some advantage. I have acquired a perfect knowledge of the language of the people to whom I am going. I know so much of their manners, that I am out of danger of giving offence by any gross error; and I have reconciled myself to their customs, so as not to be startled at any thing I see. In a word, were it not for the tincture of my skin, and the turn of my features, I might, in the common intercourse of life, pass for

for one of themselves; and a nearer resemblance do I not desire.

Our voyage is happily at an end. We are safe at anchor in an harbour at one of the extremities of the island, from whence my female friend and I propose proceeding by land to the capital. The ship though will remain here till the wind proves favourable for her sailing thither, which the mariners say it is not at present; and give that as the reason of our stopping here.

The customs of this people are most unaccountable. They seem calculated expressly to defeat the end, for which they are professedly designed.

As soon as we entered this harbour, a number of men came into the ship, without asking any permission, and seemed to take possession of it as if it were their own.

On my demanding of the Commander, along with whom I happened to be, who they were; he told me they were men appointed by the government to take care that no part of the commodities brought in the ship should be carried to land, without first paying the taxes imposed upon them for the public service.

“How can these men prevent it?” said I. “They are not sufficient in number to resist the mariners, should they be inclined to take their merchandize on shore.”

“That is very true,” he answered; “but then it is known, that any force offered to them would be attended with the worst consequences. The offenders would not only lose their merchandize, which would be taken from them by the power of the state, but also suffer an ignominious death, for a violation of laws so necessary to support it.”

And are the governors certain,” I returned, “that these men will not connive

"at what they are appointed to pre-
 "vent? What means do they use to as-
 "sure themselves of their fidelity?"

"They oblige them to take an oath,"
 he replied drily, "that they will execute
 "their trust honestly."

"But do they never break that oath?"
 I continued.

"Daily," said he; "often the very
 "hour after they take it. Nor do those
 "who impose it expect they should do
 "otherwise."

"Good Heaven!" I exclaimed; "what
 "do I hear? But I must be under some
 "error. Will you, Sir, forgive my
 "troubling you with a question or two
 "more. What is the nature of an oath
 "in this country? What is the opinion
 "conceived of it? With us, an oath
 "is an act of religion, held so sacred,
 "that it is never taken but on the most
 "important occasions, and in the most
 "solemn manner; and a man who should

“violate it, would not only be cast out
“of society, he would die of affright;
“the very terrors of his own conscience
“would drive him to despair.”

“I am sorry to say,” he returned,
“that the case is very different here.
“Oaths are made so common, that they
“have lost all respect; and imposed on
“such occasions, that it is impossible they
“should be kept; insomuch, that instead
“of answering the end for which they
“are imposed, they only occasion a dis-
“belief of those principles from which
“they should derive their effect. Mat-
“ters of religion should never be prosti-
“tuted to other purposes; nor its obli-
“gations opposed to such temptations, as
“human nature is too seldom able to re-
“sist. I have myself taken oaths, which
“I knew it was impossible for me to
“keep. But what could I do? I must
“either take them or quit a business on
“which I depend for bread.” Saying
which he left me, in evident embarrass-
ment.

I had

I had not time to make any reflections on the words of this unhappy man, when one of those guardians of the law came up to me, and without any preface told me, that if I had any business to do, there was not an officer in the ship who would serve me more reasonably than himself.

It is not possible for me to express the horror with which I was struck at the profligacy of this proposal, which I understood too well from the conversation I had just before had with the Commander. Looking him steadily in the face, "Wretched man!" I replied, "can you think any price equal to so black a crime?"

Such a refusal was so unexpected, that he knew not what to say. He stared at me, for some moments, unable to reply; then turned off, muttering to himself, "The fellow's a fool!"

That he met few such fools, I too plainly saw. During our whole stay, there was

a mart held publickly in the ship, every thing bought at which was carried on shore without hinderance from the men sworn to prevent it, and often by themselves; and this I had reason to believe was the true motive for our stopping here.

* * * * *

I have been once more, for some hours, on the land. How strange does every thing appear to me! I thought I should not betray myself by shewing surprize; but it was impossible to be prepared for what exceeds all conception.

This people are far more powerful than we could think, even from their own accounts. The place where we have landed is one of the ports appointed for their ships of war. It is impossible for any description to convey an idea of the stores of every kind collected here for the construction and service of those dreadful machines, each of which seems of sufficient strength singly to wage a war; and yet

yet I am informed, that they have several other places of the kind, two of them in particular far exceeding this.

Good Heaven! what beneficent purposes might be served by a right application of the treasure expended here for the destruction of the human kind? My soul sickens at the thought. I no longer admire a power, so horridly abused.

I went, the evening after our landing, along with my female friend, to an entertainment of musick and dancing, where I had a farther proof of the impossibility of forming a proper judgment from description.

Much as I had heard of the freedom with which the sexes converse in this country, I was struck with astonishment when I entered the room; the reality so far exceeded every thing I could conceive from the representation.

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E 4

Figure

Figure to yourself a number of people of both sexes, with the high blood of youth irritated by violent exercise, and their passions inflamed by the most intimate access to their objects, and you will form a faint notion of the scene I was in.

This is arming nature against virtue, laying the ax to its root; and must necessarily introduce an utter dissolution of manners. I turned away with abhorrence from the sight. Nor was I the only one displeased with the scene. The man of quality, not thinking there was sufficient respect paid to his birth, refused to join in their festivity; and placing himself beside me, gave vent to his resentment in sarcastick remarks upon the company, to which his temper is too prone.

But that was far from being the case with my female friend. She appeared to be once more in her proper sphere. Every atom of her was alive, every look spoke pleasure. As her first rank in life was known, and success had obliterated the manner of her going abroad, the
rulers

rulers of the entertainment paid her every honour in their power, to which her whole deportment shewed her equal.

As to the other companions of our voyage, the plumb-merchant, holding it waste of time to go into company where there was nothing to be gotten, took his customary nap in his easy-chair; while the fine gentleman would by no means omit such an opportunity of displaying his accomplishments in matters, which were the constant theme of his conversation. He accordingly dressed himself with great magnificence, and assumed all the airs of a man of the first fashion; but his performance was far from supporting his pretensions. He only spoiled the character he affected. The footman appeared uppermost in spite of all his endeavours.

I shall set out for the capital to-morrow in company with my female friend, to whose conduct I submit myself implicitly. The distance is considerable; but that is overbalanced by the conveniencies of tra-

velling which, I am informed, exceed those of any other country under Heaven.

This change is far from being unwelcome to me. Before I landed I was not sensible of half the disagreeable circumstances which attend so long a sea-voyage; but now that I have tasted the free air of the morning, perfumed with all the balmy essences of autumn, my heart sickens at the thought of the noisome prison in which so many of us were crowded together.

Besides, I shall see the face of the country, and read the genuine manners of the people, which are always most pure in the simplicity of rural life.

I understand that I shall have frequent opportunity of sending my letters to you, particularly at the approaching season of the year, which gives me great pleasure, for more reasons than one.

Besides the happy assurance of my heart, that it will be pleasing to you to hear often
from

from me, it will prevent my letters from being so long as they have hitherto been, and, but for that circumstance, must have continued to be; for if a great book is a great evil, as I have somewhere read, much more so is a great letter, which, from the nature of it, ought to be short.

In the manner of my writing, I shall observe this rule; to give the sentiments of other people in their own words, that is, to let them speak for themselves; and this I shall do, for fear of misrepresenting their meaning, should I mistake it; which is not unlikely, where people intend quite the contrary of what they speak.

With my own meaning, which I may perhaps be presumed to be better acquainted, I shall not think myself obliged to observe such formality, but give either the substance of what I may have said on any occasion, or the words themselves, as it may happen.

LETTER V.

I Am, at length, in some manner settled in the metropolis of this strange country, where I have been for ten days.

Let not my friend think, from my having discontinued writing so long, that I forgot him for a single moment; or was diverted by any pleasure, from so dear a duty. The whole system of my soul, as I may say, has been disordered to such a degree, by the noise, bustle, and confusion in which I live, that it was impossible for me to arrange my thoughts in any intelligible, much less agreeable order.

My journey, if I may call it such, from the place where we landed to this city, afforded me abundant matter for speculation. I say, if I may call it a journey; because we were to every purpose at home, during the whole way.

We

We travelled in a chamber drawn by horses, in which we sat as much at our ease, as if we were in an house; conversing without interruption, and viewing the country through the glasses of which the sides and front of the chamber were made; and which served equally to admit the prospect, and defend us from every inclemency of the weather.

Nor was our living inferior to our manner of travelling; there being houses all along the road, at moderate distances from each other, where travellers are instantly supplied with every thing they can be supposed to want, even to luxury; and that with as much readiness and regularity, as if they constantly resided there. In a word, my dear friend, justice obliges me to own, that in the arts of procuring the conveniencies of life, these people have advanced far before us.

But this is only one side of the medal. The reverse affords a very different prospect. Their attention appears to be fixed entirely upon these secondary objects.

The

The country is for the most part uncultivated, and consequently destitute of inhabitants; for agriculture alone can support population. Their cities indeed, and this in particular, are crowded with people; but that rather wastes, than strengthens the state: too great an access to one part, like a tumour in the human body, draining the extremities of their due support. I have looked around me more than once; and, as far as the eye could reach, could scarcely perceive any traces of the habitation or labour of an husbandman. How different from our country! where every spot is inhabited, and yields support to the hand which cultivates it.

The shades of night had covered the earth, when we arrived at this city; a circumstance, which my kind conductress told me, deprived us of the pleasure of seeing the many beautiful and magnificent habitations with which it is surrounded on every side; but the loss was amply made up to me. Judge what was my surprize to find this immense place illuminated

nated in such a manner, as to present us with an artificial day. It instantly recalled my native country to my mind. I seized the hand of my conductress, and, in the absence of joy, exclaimed, "This, at least, you have borrowed from us! This can be no other, than our festival of lamps. Happy omen! that I should arrive on the very day."

"I hope," she replied with a smile, "that every thing you meet will give you equal joy. This cause of it, at least, you will never want. The illuminations, which you behold, are not in consequence of any festival. They are ordinary lights, continued every night through the year, for the convenience of the people."

We stopped at an house of accommodation of the same kind of those which we had met upon the road, where we were served with the greatest ease and elegance.

On

On our entering the city, I had observed that my conductress felt unusual emotion; which vented itself in a flood of tears, as soon as the people of the house where we stopped had received her commands, and withdrawn to put them in execution.

The sight struck me. A sympathetick drop stood ready in my eye, though I knew not the cause of her grief. I saw her grieved; and that was sufficient cause for me.

She saw how I was affected; and with a smile, sweet as a sun-beam sparkling through a shower, "Wonder not, my friend," said she, "at these tears! " They are the overflowing of an heart, " grateful to Heaven for all its favours; " the source of which recurs upon me " the more strongly, at the remembrance " of the manner in which I left this " place."

The remainder of the evening she spent in anticipating the joy she should feel

feel at meeting her benefactor the next day; and sharing with him the happy fruits of his friendship to her, in the day of her distress: she then ordered one of her servants to go in the morning to his house, and enquire at what time she should find him at home, without saying by whom he was sent; for she had not given him any notice of her arrival, in order to heighten their mutual pleasure, by his surprize.

Nor could she, at times, forbear indulging a pleasure as natural, though perhaps not of so pure a kind. "As for the acquaintances of our prosperity, the summer-flies of life," said she with a lofty air, "I shall know them no more! It is now my turn to forget!"

As I was acquainted with the whole affair, she kindly promised to let me share in the pleasure of the interview between her and her friend; but it proved more affecting even than she expected.

We

We had just ended our morning's repast, when the servant she had sent to enquire for him, returned. His face was a letter of unwelcome tidings. He informed her, that her friend was in a prison, where he had been for some time confined for a debt, which he had unwarily contracted by becoming a surety for another person.

The effect, which this information had upon her, may be easily conceived. "In a prison!" said she, starting from her seat, with an expression in her looks impossible to be described. Then waving her hand to the servant to withdraw, she sunk back into her chair, and burst into a flood of tears.

There are situations, in which the obstruction of consolation only aggravates grief. I echoed her sorrow with a sympathetic sigh; nor vainly attempted to interrupt the work of nature.

A few moments restored her to herself. "Why do I waste in unavailing tears," said she, "the time, which I ought to devote to the relief of my friend. Thank Heaven,"

"Heaven," continued she, falling on her knees, and raising her hands and eyes in rapturous exultations, "thank Heaven, that it has enabled me to give him more effectual consolation."

"We will go to the prison," said she rising, "and put an end to his distress, every moment of which is more painful to me than it can possibly be to him, because it insinuates a reproach to my friendship."

On our entering this scene of misery, my heart was struck with horror, from the description which my friend had given me of it in the way. Just Heaven! that man should sink so far beneath humanity, as to take a malignant delight in heaping unavailing misery on his fellow-creatures, whom misfortune hath, on the contrary, made it his duty to relieve.

The meeting of my conductress with her friend, is not to be described. The moment he entered the room, whither he was summoned to her, she flew to him; and

and falling upon his neck, without regard to the numbers who were present, sobbed out, "Oh! my friend! my friend," as she wept over him, in anguish of soul.

His situation did not appear to be less distressful. Absorbed in the sense of his own misfortunes, he felt her embrace, before he knew from whom he received it: but the sound of her voice soon told him.

So unexpected a meeting melted him into a softness, which he had never shewn before. He pressed his lips to her cheek; and returning her embrace, mingled his tears with her's.

Such a scene was too affecting to be supported, even by those to whom custom had made grief familiar. Every one withdrew in respectful silence, leaving the mourners and me to ourselves.

But her beneficent spirit soon rose superior to this softness. "Why do we waste

" our

“our time thus?” said she, as she raised herself from the neck of her friend; “why do we give a moment to grief, which can be rescued from it? How much is your debt? and to whom due? Prepare to return, with me, directly to your family. My heart will never feel happiness, till I make you all, once more, happy together.”

This was more than the grateful heart of the good man could bear. He fixed his eyes eagerly upon her for a moment; then turning away, as unable to support her sight, “The child of my dear master!” sobbed he, bursting out into a torrent of tears.

But she did not suffer him to remain long in this state. “Shake off this weakness,” said she, taking him by the hand; “and answer me. How much is your debt? and to whom?”

“Oh madam,” he replied, having by this time recovered the power of utterance, “you are too good! I must not!

“cannot

"cannot trespass upon you so far. The
 "debt is too great—!"

"Then it must be great indeed!" interrupted she; "but let the motive apologize for my freedom. I think you
 "could not possibly get credit for any
 "debt, which I shall think too great to
 "pay for you. Answer me, then, directly; or I shall conclude that you
 "repent of your friendship to me, and
 "hold me unworthy of the happiness of
 "making a return for it."

This was an adjuration not to be resisted. He informed her, that the nominal debt, for which he was confined, was ten thousand pounds, the penal sum of a bond * into which he had entered, as surety for a man with whom he had long

* The writer in this, and many other places, is at a good deal of pains to explain to his friend the matters he alludes to; and that not always with success: but the translator has not thought it necessary to trouble his readers with such explanations, as the terms themselves are sufficiently understood by them.

lived

lived in friendship, but who had basely fled, and left him to ruin.

“Not for ten thousand pounds,” said she, raising her voice, in exultation; “nor for ten times the sum shall my friend be ruined! Send to your creditor to meet me here in an hour; and I will deposit in his hands jewels to twice that value, till I can dispose of other effects to pay him. Send for him instantly; and at the same time send home to your family, to let them know we will dine with them; for never will I taste bread, till you are freed from this wretched place. We shall afterwards have time to consider how this mischance may be retrieved.”

Saying this, she arose to go for the jewels; but the worthy man begged her to stop a few minutes, and hear what he had to say. He told her, that to refuse her friendship, would be an ingrateful pride of which he was not capable; but that, if she would permit him, he would avail himself of it, in a manner equally beneficial

ficial to him, and much less burthensome to her. He said that he was not unable of himself to pay all that could be proved to be due upon his bond; but that, as he had reason to believe the whole transaction to have been a snare laid for him between his creditor and base friend, he did not think himself under any moral obligation to rob his family of the earnings of his life on such an account; and therefore, as he could not procure bail for so great a sum, (by reason of his creditor's suing him for the entire penalty of the bond) he had submitted to confinement, either till he should be able to unfold the mystery of their iniquity, or be released by death, rather than give up his wife and children to poverty. But that if she would be so good as to procure him his liberty by bail, he did not doubt but he should soon detect the whole villainy.

This proposal admitted not of any objection. She waited therefore while he wrote a letter to a banker, who was his friend, as far as worldly prudence can be reconciled to that sacred name, to inform

him of her intention, which letter she was to deliver along with the diamonds, and then bring him along with her to the prison, to conclude the affair.

It is unnecessary for me to say, that she lost not a minute. In less than three hours, she had the inexpressible happiness of sending her friend home to his family, whither she promised to follow him in the evening; her spirits having been already too much agitated, for her to bear being present at their first meeting.

On our going to this house of joy and gladness, the meeting was such as might be expected from the mutual circumstances and characters of the people. They found as much difficulty to give vent to, as she to repress the effusions of gratitude which flowed from every heart around her.

As soon as their first emotions were in some measure appeased, she consulted with her friend upon the management of

her own affairs, the entire conduct of which she entrusted to him.

It is impossible for me to express what I felt during all these affecting scenes, though I could only be a silent spectator of them. Never had my heart known an happier day.

In a few days the care of her agent provided my friend with an house and equipage suited to her present state; in which I was in a manner compelled, by her kindness, to accept of an apartment, where I am, in every respect, master of myself.

He has likewise procured for me an attendant of approved fidelity, who is not unacquainted with the customs of our country, having lived there several years; the one, whom I brought from home, having proved negligent and unfaithful during the voyage. He has also sold for me one of my diamonds, and two of my pearls, at so great a price, that I am a man of wealth, and known to be such;

the only sure title to respect in this country, or indeed, too probably, in any other.

These necessary matters being thus settled, I shall have leisure now to apply my thoughts to making some observations on the people of this country, their customs and manners, for which my fortunate connection with this sensible and worthy woman will afford me the best opportunity, by introducing what is here called the best company, that is, the company of those of the first rank.

LETTER VI.

MY time is so taken up by day, that I devote the hours of rest to writing to my friend.

These people seem to live for no other purpose but to pay visits, the sole motives to which are idleness and vanity; and yet at these visits is the heart easiest read by an observing eye.

No sooner was it known that my friend was returned in affluence to her own country, than, as she had foreseen, all those who had turned their backs upon her on the death of her father, now flew with open arms to welcome her home.

The dignity of her behaviour, on this occasion, did her the highest honour. She received them all with the politeness due to their rank, and her own; but, at the same time, with the distance of utter strangers; not returning any of their
3 kind

kind enquiries, nor seeming to recollect that she had ever seen them before.

Abashed at a repulse, which came too home to be mistaken, they shewed their consciousness of its justice, by their confusion.

One only had the confidence to expostulate with her on her conduct, which gave occasion to a scene too extraordinary to be omitted.

This lady had been one of the most intimate acquaintance of my friend's mother in the life of her husband, not only encouraging her in all her vanity, and leading her into expence, but also frequently borrowing money from her, which she well knew she was not able to lend; and all this, in the light of friendship, because she was of high birth.

But the moment the death of her husband had changed her circumstances, instead of treating her even with compassion, she made her the subject of her

ridicule and abuse in all companies, and even refused to see her, or answer her letters, when applied to for the money she had borrowed.

Nor had she stopped here. When, by the death of her mother, my friend was left to appearance desolate and alone in the world, she added insult to her former ill treatment, sending her a message by a servant, that, if her pride was yet brought down to her condition, she would take her into her own service, till she could find another for her.

It had happened that she was in the country, when my friend's return, in such prosperous circumstances, was first made known in the polite world.

As soon as she returned, either not having heard of the reception which the others had met, or thinking to bear it down by greater assurance, she came the next morning in an undress of intimacy, and at an earlier hour than that of ceremonious visits; and, desiring to be shewn directly

directly to her, entered without any introduction or notice; and running directly up to her, threw her arms around her neck, and embraced her with all the warmth and tenderness of friendship, before she had power to keep her off, or even knew who she was; exclaiming, as well as the eagerness, and repetitions of her salute would permit, "Good Heaven! am I
 " so happy as to embrace again the
 " daughter of my dearest friend?"

But though my friend had not had time to see her face, her voice directly told her who she was. Disengaging herself therefore from her embrace, without making any return to it, she asked her, coldly, whom she was obliged to for so great a favour.

But her visitant was too sanguine in her temper, to be so easily repulsed. "Gracious Heaven!" she answered, with a look and accent of astonishment, "is
 " it possible that my dearest Emily can
 " have forgotten Lady Mary, the insepa-
 " rable, the dearest friend of her dear
 F 4 " mother?"

“ mother? Perhaps I am altered! But
“ never can I forget that lovely face of
“ your’s. The bud is blown to its
“ full perfection; the promise of your
“ infancy exceeded by your ripened
“ beauty. How often have I gazed in
“ rapture on that face, while you sat
“ smiling in my lap!”

My friend, who had now got over the first surprize of such an intrusion, let her run on to the end of her roll, knowing that the more she said, she would only lay herself the more open to the return she designed her. As soon as she stopped,
“ I am sorry madam,” replied she, “ that
“ I cannot return the compliment your
“ ladyship is pleased to pay me, as I
“ really do not know that my mother ever
“ had any such friend as the lady you
“ mention.”

“ How!” returned the other, reddening with resentment, or perhaps surprize;
“ The daughter of Mrs. Courtley not
“ know that Lady Mary was her insepa-
“ rable companion, her best, and most
“ re-

“respected friend! You astonish me, my
“dear! It is not possible.”

“I well know,” answered my friend,
“that my mother had an acquaintance
“of that name, during the life of my
“father; and I also know how that
“acquaintance behaved to her after his
“death, and again to myself after her
“death; which I think a just reason for
“saying that I will know no more of
“her.”

“The creature’s brain is turned, I
“think,” replied the other, scarce able to
articulate a word through rage; “the
“creature’s brain is turned by the success
“of her transportation. But I will hum-
“ble her insolence, and teach her how to
“behave to her betters;”—saying which,
she flung out of the room.

As soon as she was gone, “I am glad,”
said my friend, “that this interview is
“over. I feared it more than any other,
“lest I should not be sufficiently mistress
“of my temper; for of all human-kind,

“ this is the one, whom my heart holds
“ in the greatest detestation.

“ The consequence I well know. She
“ will run all over the town to rail at me;
“ but her railing will have an effect quite
“ contrary to her intention, and, like dirt
“ thrown against the wall, recoil in her
“ own face. I am rich, and she is not: the
“ world therefore, with its usual good-
“ nature and justice, will take part with
“ me without further enquiry.”

Then, to justify a resentment which was stronger than I had ever known her express before, she gave me this account of the lady's behaviour.

LETTER

LETTER VII.

MY friend has hitherto been the principal subject of my letters; but I shall now begin to make some figure in them myself; and often be the hero of my own tale.

A matter came lately to my knowledge which has given me but an unfavourable opinion of the manners of this people, and of the laws of the country, at least in some very interesting particulars.

I have informed you, of my friend's having delivered from confinement a worthy man (his name is Williams) to whom she was under great obligation,

While she and I waited with him for the execution of some formalities of law, necessary for procuring his liberty, I was so struck by the contrast in the appearance of two men, whom I saw walking

together in the prison-yard, that I could not forbear enquiring of him who they were.

“ Sir,” answered he, “ they are two of
“ the inhabitants of this place of wretch-
“ edness, whose appearances do not differ
“ more than the causes which have in-
“ volved them in this common ruin.

“ He who is so well dressed, and ap-
“ pears to be in every respect so much at
“ his ease, is confined for debts to the
“ amount of thirty thousand pieces of
“ gold, which he has found means to
“ contract by every species of iniquity,
“ and imposition upon the credulity of
“ mankind, which could escape the im-
“ mediate notice of the law; and now
“ refuses to pay, though he is known to
“ be worth twice the sum; but lives here
“ in luxury, while his creditors are many
“ of them starving, his fortune being out
“ of their reach. It is not many days
“ since the wife of one of them applied
“ to him for relief in the most moving
“ terms; but the callous wretch, though
“ he

“ he had been under the highest obliga-
“ tions to her husband at his first setting
“ out in life, and is convinced that he has
“ been the sole cause of his ruin, had the
“ inhumanity to throw the poor woman a
“ shilling, saying, he never gave more
“ to a beggar.

“ His intention, I suppose, is to weary
“ out his creditors, till he shall bring them
“ to accept of some very trifling compo-
“ sition, which the poorer of them cer-
“ tainly would gladly do; but, as the
“ richer will not submit to such a bare-
“ faced imposition, he will not pay those
“ who would, because their discharge
“ alone would not restore him to his li-
“ berty.

“ It was not his scheme to have spent
“ his days here. He had prepared every
“ thing for flying into a foreign land
“ with the spoils of his iniquity; but one
“ of his creditors, suspecting his design,
“ stopped him in the very moment he was
“ going to carry it into execution.

“ As

“ As for the other, his case is really to
“ be pitied. He was in happy circum-
“ stances, and justly respected for his vir-
“ tues by all who knew him; when he
“ had the misfortune to become surety
“ for one of his acquaintances, who was
“ made a gatherer of the publick reve-
“ nue.

“ As he did not think that by such an
“ engagement he had given up his right
“ to act as he thought proper in other
“ matters, he some time after ventured to
“ oppose the Minister at an election,
“ which gave him such offence, that he
“ directly called upon the tax-gatherer
“ for his accounts, and, on finding a de-
“ ficiency in them, sued his unhappy
“ surety; whose fortune falling somewhat
“ short of the debt, he threw himself into
“ this prison for the residue; where he
“ hath now been for several years, nor
“ hath any hope of being ever released,
“ as the debtors of the state are expressly
“ excluded from the relief occasionally
“ given by the legislature to those who
“ are

“ are in confinement for debts due to
“ private persons.

“ Nor is the severity of this treatment
“ the worst part of it. There is too
“ strong reason to think that the tax-
“ gatherer ran away with the publick
“ money at the instigation of the Mini-
“ ster himself, in order to put this poor
“ man into his power, that, by his ruin,
“ he might terrify others from daring to
“ behave with the like spirit.”

I was so much affected with the misfortunes of this unhappy man, that I resolved, if possible, to restore him to his liberty. For this purpose, when Mr. Williams, came some days after to settle the account of the jewels which I had given him to sell for me, I asked him the amount of the debt for which he was confined; and whether it might not be possible to procure his release by payment of some reasonable part of it. To which he answered, that the debt was not above three hundred pieces of gold; but that, as debts due to the state were never compounded nor forgiven,

forgiven, there was no way of procuring his release but by paying the whole, which, though not a great sum in itself, exceeded his ability, his whole fortune having been already torn from him.

I instantly devoted that sum to so beneficent a use; and gave Mr. Williams directions to that effect.

Such a commission was so unexpected, that the worthy man could not forbear exclaiming, "Good Heaven! can it be possible?"—Then, as recollecting himself, "But why should I be surprized," he continued, "at any act of generosity in the friend of my benefactress? Her esteem is a proof that he must possess every virtue!"

He proposed to me going with him to the prison; but I declined it, being desirous to keep the affair secret from every one but him.

But I soon found that impossible. When the poor man could not prevail upon

upon Mr. Williams to let him know who was his benefactor, he naturally concluded it must be my friend; and accordingly, his first enjoyment of his liberty was to throw himself at her feet in gratitude, which necessarily drew on a discovery.

I will not attempt to describe the emotions of his honest heart. I more than once feared that nature would prove unequal to them; that reason, if not even life, would sink under the weight of his gratitude.

My friend reproved me, with an air of the kindest jealousy, for having intended to deprive her of the pleasure she enjoyed in such a proof of my virtue; and not to be behind me in beneficence, gave him a purse of gold, saying, "That liberty, without the means of enjoying it, lost half its value."*

And now, O shadow of that wisdom and virtue which dispense happiness to a

* *For the sequel of this story, see letter XVI. vol. II.*
myriad

myriad of myriads, is not the great merit attributed to this action an implicit-reproach to the morals of these people? Does it not argue a want of virtue in their practice to bestow such lavish praise upon the performance of duty? For, is it not the duty of every man to relieve the distress of his fellow, as far as in his power?

The money, which hath restored liberty to this oppressed man, is not the twentieth part of what I possess. How then could I answer to myself, how could I enjoy the rest, should I neglect an opportunity of applying that much so properly?

Nor doth it appear to be a less reproach to their laws, that a man should languish in prison, and his value be lost to the community, for a debt, which he is known to have contracted without a fault, and to be unable to pay; while another, who, by a premeditated abuse of the confidence necessary to society, has gotten the property of the generous and unwary into his possession, is permitted to riot on the spoils of his iniquity. Ought there not to be

be a difference in the sufferings of the innocent and the guilty? And ought not the latter, at least, to be debarred from the enjoyment of the wealth acquired in such a manner, if it cannot be wrested from him for restitution?

LETTER

L E T T E R VIII.

I Went yesterday to deliver a letter of commendation from the Governor of the city where I embarked, to a friend of his here, whose military exploits have rendered his name famous through all the regions of the east.

He was at one of his country seats not far from this city, where every thing shews wealth in profusion.

My friend, who had known him in Mogulston, was so kind as to accompany me. We were received with equal magnificence and politeness; nor was there any thing wanting to make our entertainment pleasing, but our entertainers being pleased; who too evidently did not relish himself, what he took the greatest pains to recommend to us.

As I know that there is nothing so agreeable, on such occasions, as approbation, I
praised

praised every thing I saw in the most judicious manner I was able, to show that I spoke not merely from compliment; as indeed every thing deserved praise; no expence appearing to have been spared in the purchase, no taste wanting in the choice of them.

This honest artifice took effect. His eyes sparked at every word I said: but I soon saw that all his pleasure ended in this momentary gratification of vanity. He could not bear to look a second time at any thing he showed us, and betrayed impatience at every moment we stopped to consider them.

When the course of this ostentation led us into his gardens, he took an opportunity of detaching me from the rest of the company, while they were examining the various works which he was carrying on.

As soon as we were alone, "I have ardently wished for this happiness," said he, pressing my hand, and fixing his

his glistening eyes eagerly upon mine,
 “ ever since I have heard of your ar-
 “ rival in this country, that I might have
 “ the honour of consulting with you,
 “ upon a matter in which you must cer-
 “ tainly be much better able to advise
 “ me, than any other person I know.

“ You see this house and these gar-
 “ dens ! I purchased them at a most ex-
 “ travagant price, because I heard them
 “ universally praised : but I had scarce
 “ got possession of them, before all their
 “ boasted beauties faded in my sight.

“ I then consulted the most famous ar-
 “ chitects and designers of the age, who all
 “ gave me different plans, every one assert-
 “ ing his own to have the pre-eminence.

“ As it would have cost me too much
 “ trouble to examine them particularly,
 “ I gave the preference to that which
 “ was the most expensive, concluding
 “ that it must be the best.

“ Accord-

“ Accordingly every thing was over-
 “ turned; woods and hills removed, val-
 “ lies filled up, the course of the rivers
 “ altered, in a word the whole scene
 “ entirely changed; but now that it is
 “ almost finished, I am so sick of it,
 “ that I would this instant undo all that
 “ has been done, if I knew what to do
 “ after.

“ What I have therefore to request of
 “ you is, that, as the height of my wish
 “ is to imitate the style of your country,
 “ you will give me a model of some-
 “ thing which has never yet been seen in
 “ this. I regard not the expence, nor
 “ how much out of nature it may be.
 “ What I want, is, to amuse myself, and
 “ surprise every one else who sees it.
 “ The people I employ at present have
 “ attempted something of the kind, but
 “ so injudiciously, that, like an improba-
 “ ble tale, their works raise disgust, ra-
 “ ther than surprise.”

I promised him that I would consider
 of the matter, unable to say whether his
 unhap-

unhappiness more moved my pity or contempt.

As we returned, " You have now
" seen," said my friend, " one of the
" most extraordinary instances of the
" power of caprice over the human heart,
" which this, or perhaps any other age
" or country, has ever produced.

" This man, whom you see surrounded
" with every thing which is thought
" to constitute the happiness of all other
" men, is himself the most unhappy of
" human kind; either that he is satiated
" with what he possesses, and can wish for
" nothing which is not already in his
" possession; or, that his powers of en-
" joyment are not equal to his means of
" procuring their gratification. He can-
" not relish what he eats, as I may say,
" because he is not able to eat all he
" has."

But may it not more probably be, that a
recollection of the means by which he ac-
quired his present wealth imbitters his en-
joyment

joyment of it! that he strives, by the hurry of continual changes, to divert his attention from the bite of the worm that never dies!

Nor is this a vague conjecture, a mere indulgence of baseless malignity! The manner in which the people of this country have ground the faces of the unhappy natives of Mogulstan, are sufficiently known, thro' all the regions of the East, to warrant such a judgement.

One pleasure I have enjoyed here at their expence, which is, to see that even in a country where wealth is openly held to be the sovereign good, theirs, great as it is, is not able to balance the detestation, which nature invariably dictates against such atrocious crimes: though it screens them from punishment, and purchases them honours, they are still held in abhorrence by the very people who profit of the fruits of their iniquity, and flatter them to their faces for private ends.

At our return from the country, I went with my friend to a place of public entertainment, of the elegance of which Fame spoke in the strongest terms.

I shall not attempt to describe the scene of this entertainment. Though I had seen all the magnificence of the East, where the richest treasures of nature make their first appearance, and are displayed together in one view, before they are dispersed over the rest of the world, the effect was far short of what I now felt.

Every thing shewed the most exquisite judgement in uniting magnificence and taste; the most consummate knowledge in the art of detaching the mind from every thought, but that of enjoying the present moment.

It was impossible for the human heart to resist so powerful an attack. I melted involuntarily into sensations of soft delight, from which the voice of reason would for some moments have endeavoured in vain to arouse me.

My

My friend, upon whom the familiarity of such objects had weakened the force of their fascination, contemplated with pleasure the effect of it upon me.

Pulling me, at length, by the sleeve of my garment, "Come," said she, smiling, "let us move forward! If you gaze so, you will be remarked. I knew how well your philosophy would be able to stand this sight; and therefore brought you thus early, that you might have time to view the whole, and recover from your surprise before the company meets; as that will afford objects more worthy of your attention. This young gentleman," turning to a relation of hers who was with us, "will shew you the house, and explain any thing you may not understand."

This was an office which the gentleman willingly undertook, as it gave him an opportunity of displaying a knowledge, on which he valued himself not a little.

As he led me through the different apartments, "This, my dear Sir," said he, pressing my hand, while his eyes sparkled with emulation, "this is the utmost effort of human genius to refine pleasure, and pluck the thorn off the rose."

"Before this happy institution, a man wore himself out in anxious and uncertain pursuits; but all that trouble and pain is now saved, and gratification meets his wishes as soon as they are formed."

"What, for instance, does this world afford, which is really worth wishing for, but woman? Formerly, when a man fixed his inclinations upon a female, he was obliged to lay a thousand schemes to bribe servants, and climb into windows only to speak to her; and then he had all the prejudices of education about honour, virtue, and such things to struggle with after; but all this is now saved, as I said before."

"Let

" Let the coyest of her sex come to
 " this Temple of Pleasure, (and thanks
 " to the kind assistance of some of the
 " foremost of them, it is become a ne-
 " cessary part of education, an indispen-
 " sible requisite of condition to be ini-
 " tiated into the mysteries of it !) and if
 " nature has not made her imperfectly,
 " if she has one inflammable atom in
 " her composition, I will undertake that
 " the woman of this place sets it on fire,
 " and softens her heart sufficiently to re-
 " ceive any impression which any man
 " shall please to make upon it, in spite
 " of all the strait-laced principles she
 " may have brought from home with
 " her.

" I say any man ; for when the pas-
 " sions of nature are thus raised to their
 " proper height, she throws off the ab-
 " surd restraints of form or prepossession,
 " and honestly obeys the immediate im-
 " pulse of the moment.

" But I see the company begins to ga-
 " ther. Let us place ourselves therefore

“ where we may have a view of them
“ as they enter, and I will give you such
“ sketches of their characters and con-
“ nections as shall make the occurrences
“ of the evening more entertaining to
“ you.”

I will not recapitulate the information which my conductor gave me on this occasion. It would be uninteresting to you, who are unacquainted with the people: besides that I know it would give you as much pain to read, as I should feel in writing the secret faults of individuals.

The only justifiable motive for lifting up the veil which covers private characters, is the hope, that, by shewing vice and folly in their native colours, and tracing their consequences, the guilty may be reclaimed, and others deterred from falling into the same guilt.

But the evil is, that this good end is too often frustrated by the means taken (perhaps I should rather say, pretended to be taken) to attain it. The representation

ration is either made with a malevolence, more apt to harden in guilt than deter from it; or else drawn in a light fitter to tempt than terrify the imagination; while fictitious circumstances are added which overcharge the picture, and prevent the application from coming home to the heart.

I shall therefore only say, that the account which my conductor had given me of the effects of this place, was too well confirmed by my own observation.

The sight was far from being pleasing to me. I love not to see nature in a disadvantageous light; and turned away with disgust from the contemplation of a familiarity between the sexes, the consequence of which, in the most distant degree of comparison, I had learned, by sad experience, in the unhappy affair of the wife of Mousab, which it instantly brought to my remembrance.

It gave me sincere pleasure to find that the sentiments of my friend agreed with mine.

mine upon this occasion. Though the natural turn of her temper, and the happiness of her mind give her a relish for pleasure, she never for a single moment loses sight of that virtue, which invariably directs all her actions; nor indulges in any present gratification, however innocent in itself, whose tendency she sees had another way. She will go no more to this place.

LETTER

LETTER IX.

THE splendor in which my friend lives, has made her house a place of resort for all those who are under no immediate necessity of applying their time in a more profitable manner, to whom she has introduced me in such an advantageous light, that I have a respect shewed me, which no merit of my own could possibly have procured. I have visits payed directly to myself, by persons eminent for their curiosity, taste, and erudition; and my judgment referred to in matters which never come under my observation; so powerful is publick opinion!

I had just sat down to write to you this morning, the dearest pleasure of my life, when a person entered whom I had never seen before.

After some of those unmeaning compliments which begin all conversation here, my visiter informed me, that he

came to beg my advice and assistance in a matter of consequence. "You must
" know, Sir," he continued, taking my silence for assent, "that I have undertaken
" a work, which has long been wished
" for in the learned world. It is, a comparative view of the opinions of mankind, in all ages and countries, concerning what is called *moral good and evil*; from the contradiction of which, in every point, I will deduce this most important consequence, That there is, in reality, no such thing as either in the world: or, in other words, That all actions are, in their own nature, indifferent; and that the prohibition of some, and the injunction of others, are meer acts of tyranny over man, who is really at liberty to do whatever he pleases, without being restrained by apprehension of any imaginary consequences from what he does. An undertaking, to effect which the most ingenious men of this age have generously applied their utmost abilities, and not entirely without success; though, such

“ is the power of prejudice, that much
 “ still remains to be done.

“ Now, Sir, as I understand your
 “ country which is universally allowed to
 “ be the most ancient, and your people
 “ the wisest in the world, reject religion
 “ of every kind, their opinion will be
 “ of sufficient weight to turn the scale.

“ What I have therefore to request of
 “ you is, to give me the names of your
 “ most celebrated writers, and some lit-
 “ tle sketch of the nature of their works,
 “ and the different ages in which they
 “ were written; to which if you will
 “ give me leave to add your own autho-
 “ rity, in such points as I shall find ne-
 “ cessary for my purpose, I have no
 “ doubt but I shall succeed, and drive
 “ those fantastical names of Virtue and
 “ Vice out of the world.

“ This, Sir, is the occasion of my
 “ waiting upon you; and when you reflect
 “ upon the advantages which will arise
 “ from it, I flatter myself that you will

"not refuse complying with my request."

As soon as I could recover from the surprise, with which such a proposal struck me, I asked him, gravely, what those advantages were; as I acknowledged I could not myself conceive any, which could arise from unsettling thus the minds of mankind, were it possible to be done; which I much doubted.

I spoke in this equivocal manner, neither absolutely approving, nor yet rejecting his proposal, in order to encourage him to proceed in the explanation of his design, which I own had raised my curiosity very high: nor was my scheme ineffectual.

"The advantages, Sir," he answered, "are many and great, both to mankind in general, and to ourselves in particular. Man will be restored to the dignity of his nature, by such a vindication of his liberty; and besides the glory of accomplishing that great design, in which you will share with me,

"I shall also have the profits arising from
 "the sale of the book; an object be-
 "neath your attention, who are a man
 "of fortune."

"But are you sure such a book will
 "sell?" I replied: "I should imagine
 "the very tendency of it would turn
 "mens' minds against it."

"Not in the least!" he returned with
 a self-sufficient smile; "you are quite
 "mistaken! There is no subject of
 "which the world is so fond as of this;
 "witness the fame, and the fortunes too,
 "acquired by several writers of the pre-
 "sent age, whose only merit consists in
 "their judicious choice of this subject."

"Indeed, no other books sell suffi-
 "ciently to make it worth a gentleman's
 "while to write. I no sooner mention-
 "ed my having the honour of your as-
 "sistance, than all the booksellers in
 "town were together by the ears for the
 "copy; for as I could not doubt of your
 "compliance,

“ compliance, I thought it no crime to
“ antedate it a little.”

“ Certainly not, Sir, upon your prin-
“ ciples,” I returned ; “ a violation of
“ truth cannot be a crime, if there is
“ nothing criminal in nature.

“ But, to admit the fondness of the
“ world for such subjects, there is ano-
“ ther matter necessary to secure your
“ success. The subject is most extensive,
“ and must require much time and labour
“ to investigate it properly. I presume
“ you have visited the country, whose
“ opinions you have discussed, in order
“ to see the influence which they have
“ upon the manners of the people, the
“ only certain means of forming a just
“ judgment of them.”

“ No Sir!” he answered, “ that was
“ not in the least necessary. I have tra-
“ velled only in my closet. The man-
“ ners of all countries, but yours, are suf-
“ ficiently known. Former travellers
“ have saved me that trouble.”

“ Of

"Of past ages," I said, "this information must be acquiesced in of necessity; but where personal experience is possible, I should imagine it will not be esteemed sufficient; though even so, your labour must have been infinite. The number of books, which treat of those matters, must require the age of a man to read."

"Dear Sir," he answered, "you are mistaken there again. You take all things in too literal a sense. You surely cannot imagine that we authors read all the books we quote: that would be endless work indeed, and never pay the time and labour. No! no! that work is saved to our hands. We have Dictionaries in all arts and sciences, in which we find the opinion of authors on any subject we want, without farther trouble."

"But is there no danger," I replied, "of your being misled by those dictionaries? Is there a certainty, that the compilers of them were equal to the under-

“undertaking, and faithful in the execution of it?”

“Why not?” he returned. “What should make them otherwise? Besides, even if they were, that signifies nothing to my purpose. While I quote them truly, I am safe; as none of my readers ever look for any authority beyond them.”

“A ready knowledge of the names of writers, Sir, and of the subjects upon which they wrote is all that is necessary at present to establish the character of learning; and for this reason I have presumed to trouble you for that information, relating to the writers of the country, on whom I can safely gather whatever opinions I please, without danger of being contradicted, much less detected in what I say.”

“This confidence I place in you as a proof of my respect, and to remove every doubt of success, which might deter your complying with my request.”

“There

“There are mysteries in all professions;
“and why should ours be without
“them?”

His using the word profession, surprised me. I told him I had always thought, that books were written from a principle of the purest and most exalted benevolence, by persons, who, having devoted their lives to study, took that method of communicating the fruits of their labours to the public for its information, without any other motive, unless we should add the general one of all human actions, a desire of fame; and in that light, authors are held in higher respect among us than any other class of men; whereas a profession, as I understood the word, meant a business followed for hire.

“That may possibly have been the
“case formerly,” he answered; “but
“the times are changed, and customs
“with them. No man does any thing
“now but with a view to profit, or for
“hire, if you please to call it so. There
“is not a Lord in the land, if the writ-
“ing

“ing humour happens to take him, but
 “will sell his copy as keenly as the poorest
 “of us all.

“As for those, who profess writing,
 “that is, who write for their bread, the
 “only difference between them and those
 “of other professions, is, that the latter
 “are bred to the business they follow;
 “whereas writers mostly take up theirs
 “when all others have failed them, which
 “is the reason why so few make a fi-
 “gure in it.

“A man must apply seven years of
 “his youth to learn, before he is per-
 “mitted to make a shoe or a glove; but
 “any one, man or woman, may write
 “away, without restraint, whenever they
 “please, whether they can even so much
 “as spell; so that it is no wonder if
 “books are worse made than any other
 “article in trade.”

“I presume, Sir,” I replied, “that can-
 “not be your case; that you must have
 “been regularly bred to your profession,
 “by

“ by your lamenting the abuse of it so
 “ feelingly.”

“ Why, Sir,” he returned, “ I be-
 “ lieve I may say I have been as regu-
 “ larly bred to letters as any one, al-
 “ though this way of writing was not
 “ directly my first intention. I was bred
 “ to the pharmaceutic art, in which I
 “ have been honoured with a degree in
 “ one of the universities of a neigh-
 “ bouring kingdom; but I know not
 “ how it was! because I had set out re-
 “ gularly at the foundation of the busi-
 “ ness, and learned to make up medi-
 “ cines before I presumed to prescribe
 “ them, the rest of the faculty, who had
 “ preposterously begun at the other end
 “ of it, prescribing upon the credit of
 “ others what they knew nothing of
 “ themselves, raised such a prejudice
 “ against me as an interloper upon them,
 “ that I found it to no purpose to strive
 “ against the stream, and therefore turn-
 “ ed myself to this way of writing, in
 “ all the various branches of which I
 “ think I may without vanity boast of
 “ having.

“ having distinguished myself, as you
“ will find, if you will please to read
“ my works in seventeen volumes in folio,
“ which I would humbly recommend it to you to take home with you,
“ for the benefit of your country; to
“ promote which, I will on proper encouragement directly learn the language, and translate them into it.”

“ Good Heaven !” I exclaimed, “ seventeen volumes in folio ! is it possible that one man can have written so much. I should think it the labour of a life even to read them. Pary, Sir, may I take the liberty to ask upon what particular subject you have written.”

“ Dear Sir,” he answered, “ upon all subjects, politicks, divinity, law, natural philosophy ; nay, to shew the universality of my knowledge, I have not disdained to look down into domestick life, and even write a treatise upon the culinary art : but my favourite study has been to trace the operations of nature
“ pure

"ture in the vegetable world, in the
 "course of which I have made many
 "valuable discoveries in pharmacy, that
 "have been favourably received by the
 "publick, and paid me pretty well for
 "my pains. But this subject begins to
 "be exhausted; or rather the humour of
 "the publick is surfeited with it, where-
 "fore I have thought proper to apply
 "my thoughts to that, in which I have
 "presumed to solicit your assistance, as
 "one which cannot fail of pleasing the
 "taste of the time; the first thing for an
 "author to consider, when he sits down
 "to write."

This account, instead of satisfying my
 curiosity, only involved me in new dif-
 ficulties. I told him that I thought a
 man's making publick profession of one
 business precluded him from meddling
 with any other; and consequently, that
 after he had been honoured with a de-
 gree in pharmacy, his studies must ne-
 cessarily have been confined to it; at
 least, that it was so in my country.

"O!

“ O! Sir,” he answered, shaking his head, and smiling significantly, as in pity of my ignorance, “ our customs are “ totally different from yours in most “ things. A man’s profession here lays “ him under no manner of restraint, nor “ argues any knowledge in the art he “ professes : on the contrary, that is “ generally the one of which he knows “ least. The mind must be left at liberty “ to follow its own choice at all times, “ or it will never rise to excellence in any “ art.”

This appeared so strange to me, that I could not forbear interrupting him. “ But, good Sir,” said I, “ how can “ that be in those arts which are pro- “ fessed under the sanction of a learned “ seminary, instituted expressly for the “ promotion of knowledge? Are not “ the candidates examined before they ob- “ tain a certificate of their sufficiency in “ any art or science, or, as you term it, “ a degree; as it would be a violation of “ the purpose of their institution, a “ breach of faith with the publick, to “ grant

“ grant such a degree to one whom they
 “ did not know to be deserving of it?”

“ Not at all, Sir,” he answered; “ no
 “ such thing. In the universities of this
 “ country, I do not know but there may
 “ be some old formality of the kind
 “ observed; but in the one I mention-
 “ ed, so far from examining the candi-
 “ dates even their personal attendance is
 “ not required. All that is necessary, is,
 “ to pay the fees; and as these are not
 “ very high, they have good custom for
 “ their degrees; especially among those
 “ who have an ambition of turning
 “ quacks or authors; as these degrees
 “ are supposed, by the ignorant, to be ob-
 “ tained in the manner you say, and
 “ consequently to be a proof of know-
 “ ledge and erudition; besides that they
 “ dignify even the meanest mechanick
 “ with a respectable title, which he could
 “ not obtain by other means. We have
 “ Tinkers and Taylors who are Doctors of
 “ law and physick, though they never
 “ applied, nor were capable of applying,
 “ one

“one hour to the study of either
“science.”

He was interrupted by the entrance of company, or I know not where he would have stopped. Calling me therefore a little to one side, he asked me, in a low voice, when he should do himself the honour of waiting upon me again to get the information he had requested from me.

As I had neither time nor inclination to converse further with him, I told him I was much concerned at his making a request with which I could not comply, without a violation of that truth which was the ruling principle of my life, as I should think myself guilty of falsehood should I assist him to impose a falsehood upon any other; not to mention my disapprobation, even to abhorrence, of the design and tendency of the work in which he desired my assistance.

So unexpected a refusal seemed to disconcert him. He stood silent for a moment;

ment; and then, as if recovering from his surprise, said with a sigh and sorrowful look, that he hoped I would not refuse to subscribe to his work at last, tho' I did not think proper to give him any assistance in it.

This was attacking me on my weakest side. The application of poverty is not to be resisted. I gave him a few pieces of gold, with which he went away seemingly satisfied.

And now, O! Ruler of an happy people, what dost thou think of these matters? I have ever humbly disapproved, in my own mind, that law of our country, by which all arts are confined to particular families, who are prohibited from ever attempting to practise any other, convinced that it is the cause of our having advanced no farther in them; that for a man to profess an art or science of which he is ignorant, is a direct cheat upon the public; and the title of it a mere mockery, a disgrace instead of an honour.

As to a public seminary of learning's granting an attestation of sufficiency by such a title, in the manner he said, it is too gross to be believed.

LETTER

LETTER X.

ON my first arrival in this country, I was struck with the magnificence of their preparation for naval warfare, and lamented that so much wealth should be applied to such a pernicious use.

Justice requires me to say, that they apply their wealth also to uses as beneficial as that is destructive to human kind. They have charitable institutions for the relief of every ailment incident to man, whether natural or accidental, which do them the highest honour.

I went yesterday to see that, where the marine veterans, worn out or maimed in the service of their country, enjoy the evening of life in peace and plenty. It is a building incomparably more magnificent than the palace of the Sovereign: an instance of modesty, perhaps not to be equalled in any other Sovereign of the world.

My heart melted with delight to see the manner in which every comfort of life was administered to those venerable heroes. No wonder that soldiers should be invincible, who have such a reward in view.

There are also several institutions of the kind, founded by private individuals, who have gratefully devoted a part of their wealth to the use most acceptable to the Bestower of it, the relief of his creatures; where the miseries of poverty, sickness, and age, are alleviated; and life closed with all the comforts, which it is capable of proving. Surely such a people deserve to be rich and happy.

In order to give me a just notion of the consequence of her country in the pursuits of industry, as well as in war, my friend had ordered our jaunt so, that we returned to town by water.

It is impossible to express the astonishment with which I was struck at the
number

THE PILGRIM. 149

number of the ships collected here from every country under Heaven, which cultivates commerce at a distance from home.

We passed, for several parausays, thro' a continued street of them, as I may say, placed as regularly and as close to each other as the houses of a city, and intersected by various other streets of the same kind; the ships lying in as many rows as this great river would admit.

Nor could I think them the collection of a length of time, as I saw numbers both going out and coming in all the way as we passed along.

Before I could well surmount my first surprise at such a sight, I was struck with a reflection which surprised me still more.

This was, how the number of people contained in this little island could possibly consume all the different kinds of merchandize brought in such a number of ships; and whence they could procure

money to purchase them; as I well knew that the country affords no produce of equal value, to barter in exchange.

On hinting this difficulty to Mr. Williams, who was of our company, he solved it in the following manner.

“ The consumption of our own people, or the produce of our country,” said he, “ bear not any proportion to the general amount of our commerce. We are the merchants, or rather the factors of all other nations, who bring the several articles of their respective produce hither, as to the universal mart, where we buy from one to supply another; an advantage originally derived from our situation, and which we support by strictly prohibiting the people of every country from bringing to us the produce of any other besides their own; on our supplying other countries with which again, we not only have an opportunity of securing to ourselves a satisfactory profit, but also of employing our own
“ ships

“ ships and people in the carriage of
“ them, which raises for us such a num-
“ ber of mariners, as gives us the su-
“ periority at sea over all other nations.”

The nature of this information made me think it my duty to communicate it to you, without a moment's delay. You will judge whether it is worthy of being laid before Him, whose wisdom governs the world. It is impossible to form a just notion of the power of this people, without seeing the number of their ships both for trade and war, which are supported only by the invariable observation of this law.

H 4

LETTER

LETTER XI.

I Have seen the Sovereign of this country surrounded by all the Mandarins of his court. How great is the power of first impressions! how difficult to be subdued by reason!

I had been so accustomed to associate the ideas of royalty and splendor, that I take to myself the shame to own, I was disappointed when I saw this mighty prince, without any exterior ornament, or symbol of power, to distinguish him from his subjects who stood around him.

But, though I see and despise the folly of paying respect to things so little worthy of it, may not simplicity itself be carried too far? and as the first and strongest impressions are made upon the senses, hath it not been the policy of all nations, for that reason, to adorn majesty with peculiar magnificence?

But

But here, in contradiction to this universal principle, many of the subjects of this monarch were more gorgeously habited than himself; infomuch, that I had fixed my eyes upon another, on my first entrance, and could hardly bring myself to think but he was the Prince, because of the superior magnificence of his appearance; though, upon enquiry, I found him to have been one of the meanest of the people, who, having acquired wealth by some lucky accident, takes this easiest method of making a figure in the crowd. This is a strange perversion of all rank and order.

This mistake of mine reminds me of an occurrence in our voyage hither, which I believe I have omitted.

The storm, which I mentioned, having driven us near to the great island of Serendib, our Commander, seeing a number of the natives upon the shore, sent one of his officers to procure water and vegetables for the refreshment of his people.

The officer, in order to strike the natives with an idea of his consequence, took with him several people as attendants, among whom was a servant of the fine gentleman, whom I have mentioned to you before as one of our company.

This servant, to pay the greater compliment to the officer, or indulge his own vanity, dressed himself in his habit of ceremony, which was of scarlet, adorned with a profusion of gold, silver, and silks of various colours interwoven together; it being the custom of this country to dress their servants in the most fantastically-gaudy manner.

When the boat drew near to the shore, it happened to be overfet by the rolling of the waves; and all who were in it, were obliged to struggle for their lives as well as they could.

The natives, seeing their distress, instantly flew to their assistance, when the gaudiness of the servant's dress striking them with a notion that he must be the principal

principal person in the company, their first care was directed to him; they brought him on shore in their arms, made a fire to dry him, and shewed him all the respect they knew how, while the officer, who, confiding in his authority, had taken no care of his appearance, but was dressed in an ordinary habit without any ornament, had like to have perished for want of help; and when at length he was dragged to shore, he was taken no farther care of, but left to shift for himself.

In this situation, having with difficulty crawled to the fire, what was his surprise and indignation to see the savages all busied in attendance upon the servant! He called to him directly, in the voice of command, to come and serve him; which the other dared not to disobey.

It is impossible to express the astonishment of the natives at this sight, especially when they beheld the officer give the servant a blow, for being tardy in obeying his commands. They looked

upon it as direct rebellion, and were preparing to punish the offender; when one of his people, who understood their language, explained the mistake.

It was with difficulty that their chief could be persuaded of what he thought so great an absurdity. However, he resolved to correct it, and coming up to the servant, as he was busied in his attendance upon the officer, gave him a violent stroke upon the back, cursing the habit, as if it was that only he designed to strike; and, ordering him to pull it off directly, obliged the officer to put it on, in order to make his appearance answerable to his power, and prevent such mistakes for the future.

I went to court in company with my friend, who was to be presented to her Sovereign; an honour never conferred but upon persons of some distinction.

As she is never wearied with shewing her esteem for me, she procured me the like honour also; upon a representation,

I fear, too favourable of my rank in my own country. I bowed myself before him in our own manner, and offered up a prayer for his happiness, while I pressed my lips to the hand, which he condescendingly reached to raise me.

Nor did his condescension stop there. He enquired whether I had had a good voyage from my own country; how I liked his; and concluded by saying, He hoped I should find every thing in it agreeable to me.

Such gracious affability, such minute attention to one so insignificant as myself, affected me with the most grateful respect; but, upon mentioning it, I find it was merely a matter of course; and that he says something of the same kind, according to the circumstances of the person, to every one he speaks to; and often the same thing to the same person every time he speaks to him; for can it well be otherwise, where he has so many to speak to, and in reality nothing to say to them. Is not this a strange farce?

I have

I have said, that the mansion erected by charity for the decayed veterans of the sea-service, is more magnificent than the palace of the prince !

I said too little. The palace is as mean as that is magnificent. They are in the opposite extremes. It is a naked building, without grandeur, elegance, or decoration. Is not this strange œconomy, or rather neglect, in a country where they build palaces for their poor ?

The mention of their building palaces for their poor, reminds me to make a necessary addition to the account I have given you of their charitable institutions. I wish what I have to add were to their honour : but I must record the truth.

However beneficent the intent of the founders may have been, the conduct of those entrusted to carry it into execution in a great measure defeats it, and converts what was designed as a relief for unsuccessful industry, or the affliction of disease, into a temptation to dishonesty, and

and a reward for slothful imposture; the former in the management, the latter in the objects of them.

Nor hath this abuse crept only into private institutions. The very hospitals founded by the state for the relief and support of those servants of the publick who have worn out their health, or lost their limbs in its wars, have more than once been found filled with the creatures of their governors who never saw war, nor would want relief, had they but honesty to work for their support.

Is not this an infamous abuse! a speculation of the basest nature! and, to aggravate the disgrace of it at least (for the crime admits not of aggravation) perpetrated by persons, whose rank in the state obviates the excuses of necessity or ignorance.

LETTER

LETTER XII.

THE accounts which you have received of the government of this country, from those of the natives who have come among us, are tolerably just, so far as they go; but they want much to make them complete.

The power of making laws is vested in the Sovereign jointly with two great councils, one appointed by himself, the other by the people. The concurrence of these three is so indispensable to the enactment of a law, that the dissent of any one makes void the act of the other two.

The power of executing the laws, thus enacted, belongs solely to the Sovereign, which necessarily raises him to the first place in the state.

This partition of the legislative power, and separation of it from the executive, was the utmost effort of human wisdom
for

for the preservation of publick liberty, or, in other words, publick happiness; each part being interested in the highest degree possible to watch over the other two, and able to prevent their making any encroachment upon the common rights of all.

At first view it may seem that this counterpoise between the parts could not last long, as the appointment of one of them was given to another, of the first council to the Sovereign, which appears to be, in effect, giving him the power of two against the remaining third.

But against this danger a certain remedy was provided, by making the rights and interests of all ranks and degrees of every individual subject of the state, essentially and invariably the same; so that the number who might be so base, or rather so infatuated as to give up their own interest, can never stand in effectual opposition to those who will support it.

To

To illustrate this, I must observe, that the most valuable benefit secured to this people by the constitution of their government is the enjoyment of that liberty, which is certainly the birthright, as it is the best blessing of Heaven to man; though so much the greater part of mankind is deprived of it. The poorest subject, in this happy country, is equally free with his Sovereign.

But, as no society can subsist without a subordination of its members, the people are divided into two orders, Nobility and Commonalty; of the former of which consists the first council, as the second doth of the latter.

Now as this nobility is created by the Sovereign in supposed reward of merit, of which he is sole judge, and consequently at his pleasure; he may justly be said to appoint the council which consists of persons so ennobled.

But, to obviate the influence which this power of nobilitation might give him
over

over them, nobility, as soon as conferred, is irrevocable, and hereditary; so that a man's being made noble, instead of making him dependant upon the Sovereign, in reality lessens his expectation from him, there being no higher rank to which he can be raised; nor is the tie of personal obligation of sufficient force to effect any mischief, much the greater part of the council having inherited their nobility from their ancestors, and consequently being under no ties of the kind to the prince upon the throne.

In a word, this government, humanly speaking, promises to stand as long as man shall act upon the leading principles of his nature, self-preservation, and regard to his own interest.

In my last letter, I informed you of my having seen the Sovereign of this country. I have since seen his two great councils in their legislative capacity, deliberating upon matters proposed to be enacted into laws.

If

If I was disappointed by the want of exterior magnificence in his appearance, my disappointment was greater here, because arising from a want of greater consequence, that of order, dignity, and even decency in their deliberations.

In the first council, forms only seemed to be regarded. The business was hurried over by the officers, while the very few members, who attended, seemed totally taken up in private conversation with each other.

In the second, all was tumult, noise, and personal altercation of the grossest kind, more like to a drunken broil, than a debate of legislators. How excellent must the institution be, which can support itself against such abuse!

LETTER

LETTER XIII.

YOU remember, it was a maxim of the sage Tait-song, that the manners of a people are best learned from their publick entertainments; as these are always suited to their real character, without regard to that artificial reserve, which throws a veil over their conduct in all the other affairs of life.

For this purpose, I have attended the artificial representations of this city, which are exhibited with great pomp, before more people than I have ever seen collected together in worship, and in buildings adorned with much greater magnificence than their temples.

The representations are of three kinds; one to excite melancholy, another to excite mirth, and the third to cause sleep; if I may judge from the effect it had upon myself.

Though

Though I am well aware, that objects, calculated principally to strike the senses, must suffer in description, that shall not deter me from attempting to convey to you some idea, however imperfect, of these exhibitions, persuaded that, to you, the motive of the attempt will extenuate the defects in the execution.

The first which I saw was of the first kind. The story of it was this.

A young woman married without the consent of her father. Her husband, made jealous of her by the misrepresentations of a villain, murders her; and then finding that he has been abused, stabs the villain, and afterwards himself. All which horrid facts are perpetrated, in representation, upon the stage, in the presence of the spectators.

Such scenes, you will allow, were sufficient to excite melancholy, or rather horror, in the most cheerful mind. For my own part, they threw a gloom over

mine, which I could not dissipate for the rest of the evening.

These exhibitions are tolerated by the state, not only as a rational entertainment, but also as tending to inculcate the principles and practice of virtue, by setting the mind upon its guard against vice, and shewing the fatal consequences of it.

But I much doubt, if the manner in which they are executed is the most proper to effect that end. Crimes lose their horror, as they become familiar; and custom banishes fear.

It must be confessed, that the workings of the soul are painted by the poet, and expressed by the performers, with great force, and the most exalted sentiments of piety and virtue aptly interspersed thro' the whole; but these are only in speculation! The crimes are practised; and most unequal are the powers of precept and example,

If

If the first was so successful in its aim of exciting melancholy, the second was no less calculated to excite that mirth with which the mind is inebriated by vicious pleasures, and reconcile it to them.

In that which I have seen, (and I am told the spirit of all is the same) a female, who had wedded a man for the sake of his wealth, is openly solicited to infidelity by another; whose solicitations are at length so successful, that she finds herself unable to refuse him; but, just as he is leading her into a private part of the scene to gratify his desires, he is prevented by another female being there before him; which disappointment raises a laugh, as the advances to it must have raised other passions in the spectators.

And yet this is called a moral entertainment, and as such tolerated by the state, and resorted to by people of the gravest character. But strange surely must their notions of morality be!

You

You must not think that these, which I have seen, are singularly faulty. The spirit of them all, as I have said, is the same; and these are two of the most celebrated which they have, and always attended by crowded audiences. In one thing, indeed, the conduct of the latter may not seem to be injudiciously designed; which is, that as the former kind promotes murder, the tendency of this evidently is, to remedy that by promoting the propagation of the species; and that not altogether without success, if we may judge of its influence upon the spectators, by its effect upon the performers, very few of whom have ever been famed for chastity; and yet another strange thing is, that their company is courted by those who profess the highest respect for it: but I see nothing but contradiction between the professions and practice of this people.

On hinting these remarks to my friend, she was far from disagreeing with me in the main. She said, that the exhibitions of murder upon the stage, had drawn

upon the nation the reproach of delighting in blood: and that the immorality of the comic scene was so flagrant, especially in the performances written in the last age, that in going to that which I had seen, and which was one of them, she owned she had gratified her curiosity to see one of the actors, who excelled particularly in it, at the expence of her opinion; adding, that this objection to those performances was so palpable, that tho' some of them were still represented on account of their superior merit in other respects, yet all new ones were obliged to be written in a very different manner.

The third species of scenical representations should seem, in some respects, to have been borrowed from us; the most violent passions being expressed in song, after our manner.

I shall not enter into a discussion of the propriety of expressing, by rule, emotions the most irregular; of uttering discord and distraction in the soft tones of harmonic modulation. With us, antiquity

hath sanctified the error, if such it is; and the energy of the sentiments compensates for the impropriety in the manner of their utterance.

But these people have neither excuse to plead. The practice is not only new among them, but they have also added to it the still greater absurdity, of inditing these very songs in a language which they do not understand; so that the whole entertainment is in every respect an insult upon reason.

The effect consequently is a suspension of sense, differing in nothing from actual sleep, but that the eyes are open. As for myself, I was lulled literally to sleep.

It is unnecessary to make any remark on the manners of a people who can be pleased with such entertainments. They are sufficiently obvious.

LETTER XIV.

THE people of this country boast of their laws. But of what advantage are laws if not duly executed? There is not a country under Heaven which boasts of civilization, and an established government, where a man travels on the road, or sleeps in his house, in less safety from the thief and the robber.

Finding an unusual heaviness upon my spirits yesterday morning, my friend, whose attention to me is never remitted, kindly proposed our making an excursion for a few hours into the country, in hope that the exercise and change of air might dissipate the cloud which hung over me: a practice not unusual here; and I believe not unnecessary to people who lead a sedentary life, and breathe the loaded atmosphere of such a populous place.

As we were driving along, within a league of the city, contemplating the multitude

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multitude of large villages and beautiful detached mansions which surround it as far as the eye can reach, we were stopped by an horseman, who, thrusting a pistol in at the window of the carriage, demanded our money.

I was so little aware of the situation we were in, though I had often heard of robberies on the road, that I innocently asked him, "For what?" But my friend, who understood him, and knew that there was no expostulating with a man who had arisen in defiance of law, and set his life upon the stake, instantly gave him her purse, as I did mine by her example, on which he rode away at full speed, without offering us any farther injury; leaving us to reflect, as we drove home, on the excellency of laws, which are insufficient to protect a traveller at noon-day, in the very center of their sphere of action.

Talking of this adventure at dinner, a gentleman, who was present, related the following story from his own knowledge,

which sets this nefarious outrage in a new point of view.

“ A native of the northern part of this
 “ island, who by vending of linen, which
 “ he carried around the country on his
 “ back, had acquired a sum of one hundred pieces of gold, resolving to extend his business by the addition of
 “ other wares, set out for this city, in
 “ order to purchase them to the best advantage.

“ When he had arrived within a few
 “ miles of the end of his journey, he
 “ was obliged to take shelter in an house
 “ of entertainment, which stood in a
 “ lonely part of the road, from a violent
 “ storm of wind and rain; where he had
 “ not been long, before he was joined
 “ by two horsemen, of genteel appearance; who stopped on the same account.

“ As he was in possession of the fire-side,
 “ they were under a necessity of joining
 “ company with him, in order to dry
 “ themselves,

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“ themselves, which otherwise the mean-
“ nefs of his appearance would proba-
“ bly have prevented their doing.

“ The new companions had not sat
“ long together, before the cheerfulness
“ of his temper, and something uncom-
“ monly droll in his conversation, made
“ the others invite him to supper with
“ them at their expence; where they en-
“ tertained him so generously, that, for-
“ getting his national prudence, he could
“ not forbear shewing his treasure, as a
“ proof of his not being unworthy of
“ the honour they had done him.

“ The storm having obliged them to
“ remain there all night, they departed
“ together next morning, when, as a
“ farther mark of their regard, they
“ kept company with him, though he
“ travelled on foot, till they came into a
“ solitary part of the road; when one of
“ them, putting a pistol to his breast,
“ took from him the bag which con-
“ tained the earnings of his life, leaving
“ him only a single piece of gold, which
I 4 “ by

“ by good fortune he happened to have
“ loose in his pocket.

“ His distress, at such a loss, may be
“ easily conceived. However, he sunk
“ not under it. A thought instantly oc-
“ curred to him, how it might possibly
“ be retrieved; which he lost not a mo-
“ ment to put in execution.

“ He had observed that the master of
“ the house, where he had met these two
“ plunderers, seemed to be perfectly
“ acquainted with them. He returned
“ therefore thither directly; and, feign-
“ ing to have been taken suddenly ill on
“ the road with a disorder in his bowels,
“ called for some wine, which he had
“ heated, and rendered still stronger with
“ spice; all the time he was drinking
“ which, he did nothing but pray for his
“ late companions, who, he said, had
“ not only advised him to take it, but
“ also been so generous as to give him a
“ piece of gold, which he produced, to
“ pay for it; and then, seeming to be
“ much relieved, he lamented most hea-
“ vily

“ vily his not knowing where to return
 “ thanks to his benefactors, which, he
 “ said, the violence of his pain had made
 “ him forget to enquire.

“ The master of the house, to whom
 “ his guests had not mentioned the man’s
 “ having money, that he might not ex-
 “ pect to share it with them, never su-
 “ specting the truth of his story, inform-
 “ ed him, without scruple, who they were,
 “ and where they lived.

“ This was directly what he had schem-
 “ ed for. He crawled away, till he was
 “ out of sight, from the house, in order
 “ to keep up the deceit; when he made
 “ all the haste he could to town; and,
 “ enquiring after his spoilers, had the sa-
 “ tisfaction to hear that they were people
 “ in trade, of good repute for their
 “ wealth.

“ The next morning, therefore, as soon
 “ as he thought they were stirring, he
 “ went to the house of one of them,
 “ whom he found in the room where

" his merchandize was exposed to sale.
 " The merchant instantly knew him ; but
 " imagining that he had come on some
 " other business, for he did not think it
 " possible that he could have traced him,
 " or even that he could know him in
 " his present altered appearance, asked
 " him in the usual way, what he want-
 " ed."

' I want to speak a word with ye in
 ' preevate, Sir,' " he answered, getting
 " between him and the door ; and then,
 " on the merchant's affecting surprise,
 " In gude troth, Sir,' " he continued,"
 " I think that it is somewhat strange, that
 " ye shud na ken Sawney, who supp'd
 " with ye the neeght before the laust, af-
 " ter aw the keendness ye shew'd tu' him !"
 " Then lowering his voice, so as not to
 " be overheard by the other people pre-
 " sent, he told him, with a determined
 " accent, that if he did not instantly re-
 " turn him his money, he would apply
 " to a magistrate for redress.

" This

“ This was a demand, which admitted
 “ not of dispute. The money was paid
 “ him, with an handsome gratuity for
 “ having lent it, and his receipt taken to
 “ that effect; after which he went di-
 “ rectly to the other, upon whom he
 “ made a like demand, with equal suc-
 “ cess.”

You see by this story, that robbing on the highway is a profession here, as much as among the Tartars of the Desert, practised to supply the dissipations of debauchery, even by those who support an appearance of honest industry. What then must be the case with the numbers who live at visible expence, without having any visible business to supply it!

The consequence is shocking to humanity! The wretches suffer an ignominious death for a crime, the temptations to which are stronger than the terrors opposed against it; there being, in every quarter of this immense city, some place of publick entertainment, where all may go who can pay the price of admittance,

without any enquiry being made, how they procured it.

It is to be observed indeed, that among the numbers who suffer for this crime (more, by many times, than in any other country of Europe) there seldom is one who had any reputable way of acquiring support. But, as there are many robberies committed, the perpetrators of which are never discovered, this, instead of being a proof that no such ever are guilty, proves no more, than that laws punish only those who cannot pay for the breach of them.

Our loss did not sit so heavy on our spirits, as to prevent our going in the evening to a place of public entertainment, the formalities of which debar all who cannot make a genteel appearance.

It is a very large room of a circular form, capable of containing several hundreds of people, with seats in the middle for them to sit down when they are tired; and little alcoves all around, where
they

they regale themselves with tea, which is as universally drank here, as with us. The entertainment (if such it may be called) consists in gazing at each other as they walk round this room, and listening to singers, hired for the purpose; for which waste of time each person pays as much as would supply a poor family with food for the whole day.

As I was tiring myself with walking round and round, in this foolish manner, I chanced to cast my eye upon a young man, richly dressed, who seemed to regard me with earnest and anxious attention, and whose face struck my memory, though I could not recollect where I had seen him; nor had I an opportunity of asking my friend's relation, whom I have mentioned to you as being one of our company on all these parties, as I did not meet him again for the rest of the evening.

As you may naturally suppose that I see many more faces, in this crowded place, than it is necessary, or
indeed

indeed possible for me to remember, I thought no more of the matter till this morning, when I was surprised to see the same person enter my chamber, at an hour unusually early for paying visits.

You will not wonder at my saying I was surprised, when I tell you, at this second view, I instantly recollected him to be the very man, who had robbed us on the highway yesterday.

Our embarrassment, at such an interview, seemed to be equal. We looked at each other for some minutes, without speaking a word. At length he broke silence; and, with a faltering accent, and look of despair, "You see, before
"you," said he, "an unhappy man,
"whose living another hour depends
"upon the word of your mouth. In
"the general sense of mankind, I am
"conscious that I have no title to mercy
"from you. But, perhaps, when you
"shall have heard my story, you may
"not think me altogether beneath it;
"and that was the reason of my leaving
"the

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“ the room so abruptly last night; left
“ you should have caused me to be apprehended, before I could be able to
“ make my situation known to you.

“ I am born of a good family, who
“ thought they provided sufficiently for
“ me by getting me a commission in the
“ army, where I served, to the end of
“ the war, with reputation, but without
“ rising; as I had not money to purchase, and my relations thought no
“ more of me.

“ At the peace, our regiment was reduced; since when I have had nothing
“ to live, or rather indeed to starve, upon, but my half-pay. I applied to
“ my relations; but they would not even
“ see me, while I made an appearance
“ suited to my circumstances.

“ Driven to despair, I had recourse to
“ the method you have seen, till they
“ shall think proper to do something for
“ me, which they promised, as soon as I
“ changed my appearance; to accelerate
“ which,

“ which, I have candidly told them my
“ way of life : but they affect to disbe-
“ lieve me ; and, without giving them-
“ selves any trouble about the matter,
“ admit me into all their parties of plea-
“ sure, though they must know, that I
“ have no other means of supporting the
“ expence.

“ Now, Sir, here is your money, and
“ that of the lady along with whom
“ you were : and, if you think my un-
“ happy situation not unworthy of com-
“ passion, you will pardon a crime which
“ was the effect of poverty ; an evil, ne-
“ ver so severely felt as under a laced
“ coat. If you will not, my own hand
“ shall here anticipate the stroke of ju-
“ stice this moment.

“ You need not be alarmed for your
“ own safety. I will not add another in-
“ jury to that which I have already done
“ you. On the contrary, I will call up
“ one of your servants to be witness to
“ my fate, that you may not be suspected
“ of it.”

This :

This was an address not to be resisted, I assured him, that, far from wishing to drive him to such an act of desperation, I would do any thing in my power to prevent it. I therefore not only refused to accept of the money he had offered to return, but also added more to it; exhorting him to quit a course, which must certainly have an unhappy end.

My friend, who was struck with horror at the thought of the wretched man's murdering himself in her house, not only approved of what I had done, but also resolved to apply to his relations, with whom she is acquainted (he told me the name of his family) and endeavour to prevail upon them to rescue him from the dreadful fate which at present hangs over him. She is never wearied with doing good.

And now, O! Son of Wisdom, may not this affair account for the imputation under which this people labours, of being more prone to suicide than any others of the sons of man? May it not be the consequence

consequence of such a situation as this unhappy man was in? For never have I heard of any person's committing the horrid act, in whose circumstances there was not some mystery.

Despair will drive to any thing, a man, whose sense of shame is stronger than that of guilt. Instead, therefore, of arguing against a crime, which no one ever thinks of while he is capable of hearing reason, I would annex to it some mark of greater infamy than to any other act of man; so that it should no longer be thought a refuge from shame.

I have read that such an expedient once put a stop to it among women. And surely the mind of a man, who can forget himself so far as to think of such an act, is as weak as that of any woman: the experiment is worth trying at least.

Nor are the robbers, who infest the publick roads of this country, the greatest reproach to its laws. The very streets of this city are no less infested by spoilers of a more atrocious kind. The grossest vice
insults.

insults the face of day. Women, who have thrown off all regard to every thing valuable in their sex, offer themselves publickly to promiscuous prostitution; nor content with even solliciting it, no sooner do the shades of night afford a skreen to their outrages, than, like other beasts of prey, they seize the unwary passenger, and either plunder him in the street if he rejects their sollicitations, or drag him, half reluctant, to their dens, whence he is sure to bring away disease, if he even escapes instant death.

Such enormities are so inconsistent with every idea of civil government, that I own I thought the representation exaggerated in order to strike terror, till I was myself convinced of their truth, by dangerous experience.

As I was walking along the street, a few evenings ago, a female, arrayed in the loose garb of an harlot, asked me, with a lisping voice, and lascivious leer, to give her a glass of wine.

I have

I have a tenderness for the sex, which will not permit me even to speak with asperity to the most abandoned outcast of it. I therefore mildly answered, that I never drank wine; and was at that time going elsewhere on a particular occasion.

But such excuses were insufficient to procure my release. When she found her lewd solicitations ineffectual, she proceeded to direct force, in which she was assisted by three or four of her sisterhood, who, gathering around me, were hurrying me down a dark lane, in spite of all my expostulations, all the resistance I could make, when my friend's relation, who was happily passing by, heard my voice and flew to my rescue; and all this in the sight of crowds of people, who, instead of giving me assistance, only laughed at my distress, and thereby encouraged the harpies who had laid hold upon me.

The terror with which this outrage struck me was so great, that I was, for
some

some minutes, unable to return thanks to my deliverer; though I was not sensible of all my danger, till I arrived at home, when I found that they had plundered my pockets of my purse, my watch, and every thing else which had been in them; from whence it is easy to judge what would have been my fate, had they gotten me absolutely in their power.

Never will I venture to walk the streets of this city again, after it is night; although, at the time this happened to me, the light of the day, which was not closed above an hour, was well supplied by the illuminations, and the street as full of people as at noon.

Such outrages, O! Shadow of Time, whose justice never sleepeth, happen not within the extensive circle of thy rule. The people committed to thy care look not in vain to neglected laws for protection. Innocence is safe; because guilt cannot escape punishment. The virtue, as well as the wisdom of this people, is all in speculation.

LETTER.

LETTER XV.

I Have told you that the favourable character given of me, by the partial regard of my friend, has made me of some consequence, especially in the eyes of those, who affect to be thought men of curiosity and speculation.

Of this I have had a whimsical instance this morning, when I was honoured with a visit by an elderly man, whom I had sometimes seen at the houses of people of the first rank.

After the customary preface of unmeaning compliments which usher in all conversation here, he told me, that he had taken the liberty to come for my advice in a matter, upon which the satisfaction of his future life in a great measure depended.

Such an address naturally engaged my attention. I answered, that he might be certain

certain of the best advice in my power to give him; but that I feared he over-rated my abilities, as I was too little conversant in the affairs of this country, to be capable of advising any thing in respect to them.

“ Sir,” said he, appearing to be encouraged by the manner in which I spoke,
 “ it is not upon any thing of that kind
 “ that I have taken the liberty to trouble
 “ you. The affairs of this country are
 “ not worthy of the attention of any
 “ man of sense, they are conducted in
 “ such a wretched manner. My care is
 “ employed on a matter of quite another
 “ nature, which I am sure you are
 “ well qualified to advise me in. I must
 “ beg leave to inform you, Sir, that, by
 “ some happy speculations in business, I
 “ have acquired a plentiful fortune!
 “ Now what distresses me is, to know
 “ how I shall lay it out, so as to be a
 “ benefactor to my country, when I myself
 “ shall be no more.

“ I had

“ I had some thoughts of building
“ hospitals or almshouses, and endow-
“ ing them liberally. But then people
“ of any distinction are never benefited
“ by such things; and, you know, it is
“ not worth a man’s while to be at so
“ much expence to serve only a parcel of
“ beggars!

“ What I would therefore presume to
“ ask, is, whether you have, in your
“ country, which I am told is the wisest
“ in the world, any such thing as an
“ hospital for broken Lords, who have
“ ruined themselves by wine, women,
“ gaming, or in any other fashionable
“ way: such a foundation being much
“ wanted among us at this time, as it
“ would not only save a number of those
“ poor wretches from self-murder, but
“ also from the greater sin, with respect
“ to the publick, I mean, of prostitut-
“ ing themselves to do every dirty job,
“ which the minister requires of them,
“ for a morsel of bread.”

I answered, as soon as I could suppress the impulse to laughter which so strange a thought excited, that I was sorry it was not in my power to give him any advice in his truly publick-spirited scheme. But with us, as nobility was never conferred but in reward of virtue, so there was always given with it a fortune sufficient to support the rank with proper dignity and independence, if the person was not possessed of one himself; on the dissipation of which, or the commission of any atrocious crime, the nobility was immediately forfeited. That such a foundation therefore, as he mentioned, could have no place in my country; nor could I conceive that it would be practicable in his, where false pride would never suffer those, for whose benefit it was proposed, to receive charity, expressly by that name, how much more honourable soever, in reality, than their present means of support, as he described it.

“I was afraid so myself,” he replied, with a dejected look, and heavy sigh, “I was afraid so myself! and what then

" shall I do? It will absolutely break
 " my heart, if I cannot leave behind
 " me some honourable testimony of my
 " regard to my country. I am not one
 " of your prating patriots, as they call
 " themselves, who turn the heads of the
 " people by their fine speeches, but
 " have it not in their power to do them
 " any good. I am for something solid.
 " Be so good, therefore, as to advise me,
 " I conjure you. I have puzzled my
 " poor brains, till I am almost distracted;
 " and could think of no scheme but
 " this, which I now find impractica-
 " ble."

Affected by a distress, which, however
 fantastical, appeared to arise from so vir-
 tuous a motive, I answered that it was
 a subject upon which I had never thought
 sufficiently to be able to speak with any
 precision. That as to his first scheme of
 building hospitals or almshouses for the
 poor, I was as little fond of it as he
 could be: though not for the same rea-
 son; but because I understood that the
 abuses

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abuses of such endowments utterly defeated the use of them.

“But there is another kind of charitable institution,” I said, recollecting myself, “which doth not appear to me to have met the attention it merits, and may probably answer your design; which is, to establish a fund for encouraging matrimony, by giving annually, to a number of young maidens of virtuous repute, fortune sufficient to put their husbands in a way of supporting their families in some honest business. This will be laying a foundation for industry, which is the best wealth, and for population, the surest strength of a state; and you may at the same time immortalize your own name, by making the addition of it an indispensable condition of obtaining the beneficence.”

Tho’ respect had prevented his interrupting me, I could plainly perceive, by the impatience in his looks, that he disapproved my proposal.

As soon as I had ended, "What!" he replied, "give my money to promote matrimony? that would be to throw it away indeed. As the world now goes, I do not suppose we shall have any such institution among us much longer.

"The great, you see, make nothing of it; and the people always follow their example in every thing they can, so that this would be only to make more work for the lawyers, in procuring divorces; and they have too much of the kind already.

"No! no! That scheme will never do. I had rather establish a fund to encourage population at large, without any respect to matrimony; as that intention cannot be disappointed, while there are men and women in the world, and it is some satisfaction to a man to know, that his intention will be fulfilled at last."

He

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He was interrupted by the entrance of a nobleman, in high office in the State, who had come to pay a visit to my friend; and not finding her at home, made use of the opportunity to do me the honour; at the first sight of whom he took his leave, without waiting for any farther advice.

“What in the name of knavery,” said his Lordship, “can have brought that old fellow to you? I hope he does not set up for a man of taste or letters, and want information in the productions or manners of your country! I should rather think he has a mind to finger its finances, and came to solicit your interest to get him a place in the management of them, since he will be no longer trusted here; for, old as he is, he would this very day set out on a voyage to the gates of hell, if he thought he could make any thing by it, though he is already richer by a thousand degrees than he deserves, or had any right to expect he should ever be.”

In order to do justice to a character which I thought injured, I informed his Lordship of the old man's scheme; which he heard with evident impatience and displeasure. "The old scoundrel!" said he; "what a thought!"—Then making me a slight obeisance, departed abruptly, with a look of much less good humour than he had worn when he entered.

While I was considering whence this could arise, my friend's relation came in; and on hearing the story burst into an intemperate fit of laughter: "An
" hit! a palpable hit!" exclaimed he, as soon as he was able to speak; "never
" was any thing so well hit! Why, my
" dear friend," a common appellation in this country, but I never prostitute the sacred name so, "you deserve to be ca-
" nonized for such an hit! That very
" Lord is the very object for such an
" hospital! He is literally broken, both
" in fortune and reputation; and now
" subsists by doing the dirtiest work the
" minister can set him upon, to the very
" violation of the most sacred laws of
" society,

“ society, the betraying the confidence
 “ of private conversation. Never was any
 “ thing so happily applied.”

But highly as he seemed pleased, I
 could not enjoy the compliments he so
 lavishly paid me on the occasion. Far
 from priding myself on the hit, as he
 called it, I was afraid I had involuntarily
 given offence, and made an enemy con-
 trary to my intention.

But he laughed at my fear. “ Trou-
 “ ble not yourself about the matter,”
 said he; “ he will think no more of it.
 “ He would not have time to do any
 “ thing else, if he were to take notice of
 “ all the rubs of the kind which he
 “ meets every day of his life; so many,
 “ indeed, that they have made him quite
 “ callous; and now he only laughs at
 “ reproach.

“ But who do you think your publick-
 “ spirited schemer is, and in what business
 “ his speculations have been so lucky? He
 “ was originally an under-clerk in one of

“ the publick offices, by turning the se-
“ crets of which to his own advantage,
“ together with the most shameless ex-
“ tortion and penury, he at length a-
“ massed such a fortune as attracted the
“ envy of his superiors, who, not chuf-
“ ing to be interloped upon by their ser-
“ vants, easily found means to detect
“ him in some of his mysterious prac-
“ tices, and made a virtue of punishing
“ him for what they did themselves every
“ day.

“ But he had made too good use of his
“ time, to sink under this stroke. It
“ only obliged him to change his way
“ of business from plundering the pub-
“ lick to private usury, in the rigid prac-
“ tice of which, as well as of his pe-
“ nury, he persists invariably, though
“ possessed of wealth sufficient to satif-
“ fy any avarice which could know
“ bounds.”

I knew my informer's turn to levity,
and could not forbear hinting an hope,
that he indulged it a little too far on
this

this occasion; not being willing to think there was so despicably base a character in humanity, especially as I had seen this person received without disrespect by people of the first rank.

“ My dear friend,” he answered, pressing my hand, “ the goodness of your own heart deceives you, as much as your want of acquaintance with the ways of the world !

“ He is received by people of rank, because he is known to be rich, and either has, or they think may have them in his debt ; for, as to his character, it is better known than his coat, which he has shewn every day for these twenty years in the park ; where he spends all the time he can spare from poring over his mortgages, and calculating interest upon interest, in order to save the expence of going to a coffee-house, or keeping a fire to sit by at home.”

I then expressed my wonder, what could be his motive for coming to me with

such a story, as I imagined that men of his turn never did any thing without having some end in view.

"It is really hard to say," he answered; "though, as he must know that he can have no dealing with you, I should suppose he only meant to make out a story for the entertainment of a set of wretches, like himself, with whom he spends his time; for he has an heart as full of mischief as a monkey; and there is nothing which such people enjoy so much, as to impose upon the sensibility of men of virtue.

"But let us drop a subject not worth your attention!" he continued. "I come to propose a little party to you for this evening, when I will shew you some females who shall reconcile you to those of our country, after the fright you were put in the other night.

"My cousin, you know, is engaged; so that we have the evening to ourselves, which we will devote to pleasure, sure,

“sure, with two or three honest fellows
“of my acquaintance, at a tavern, where
“I have ordered the waiter to provide
“us some of the finest women on the
“town. You will then have an oppor-
“tunity of judging which are most to
“be liked, our Ladies of pleasure, or
“your dancing-girls. Nor need you fear
“being pillaged as you were before :
“none but women of character above
“the rest are admitted into that tavern.”

Agreeably as he thought he painted
this party, I begged leave to decline it.
I told him, I did not presume to find
fault with the sentiments of any one else ;
but, for my own part, I had too delicate
a respect for the female sex, to find pleasure
in the company of any of them whose
conduct was a disgrace to it.

He was preparing to try if he could
not laugh me out of my delicacy, which
word he repeated with a significant ac-
cent, when I was relieved from his im-
portunities by a message from my friend,
K 6 who

who just then returned from paying her morning visits.

I know not how to account for it; but though I am attached to every thing belonging to my friend, and have a personal obligation to this young man for rescuing me out of the hands of those abandoned women, I cannot behave to him without reserve, nor return the friendship which he so sanguinely professes for me. I sincerely wish I owed that obligation to some one else. He talks of it too much, and jests at my fright in terms painfully gross.

LETTER

LETTER XVI.

I Have told you, that I am sometimes honoured with visits from people of distinction. I am also admitted to visit them; and have reason to think I am often more welcome than persons of much greater consequence, because it is known that I go not to solicit favour.

I went yesterday morning to pay a visit of real respect to a person, whose virtues do honour to the nobility with which they have been rewarded by his Sovereign, in consequence of an invitation which he condescended to give me one day when I met him at court.

The gracious manner in which he received me, and the goodness which shone in every look, and which sweetened every word, filled my heart with happiness. I forgot that I had never spoken to him but once before. My soul looked to him as a long acquaintance, with whom it scorned to keep any reserve.

But

But the sensations of my friend's relation, who had gone as my conductor, did not seem to be so agreeable. I soon observed that he was uneasy, like one who sat in too strong a light. He looked once or twice at his watch; then, rising with an embarrassed air, told me he had recollected some business which demanded his attendance just at that time; but that he would meet me in the Park at a particular hour, if I chose to take a walk there, as the morning was very fine. The nobleman dismissed, as politely as he had received him; then turning to me, "I believe," said he, with a smile of compassion, "your friend heard our conversation would be too serious for his taste! but youth will have its own pursuits."

To give you a just idea of the pleasure I enjoyed in the company of this excellent man, I should be obliged to repeat every word he said. His enquiries into the laws of our country, and the manners of our people were most curious; and his remarks upon them, especially in

comparison with those of his own, dictated equally by candour, judgement, and benevolence.

Instead of finding fault with ours, in order to set forth the superiority of theirs in every instance (and in too many there was room) he mildly said, that, upon due examination, he believed it would be found, that there was a necessary connection between the natural circumstances and the laws of every country; and if all did not appear equally good to a speculative enquirer, they would at least be found sufficient to procure the happiness of the people respectively, if duly observed.

He then told me, that he had attempted in his youth to serve his country; but that he had found the means necessary to be practised so contrary to his principles, that he could not, without giving up the approbation of his own mind, to which he thought no human consideration equivalent, pursue them; and had therefore desisted.

desisted from the attempt, humbly content to do his duty in a private station.

This delightful conversation, from every word of which I learned wisdom, was interrupted by the entrance of a person, whose appearance spoke a very different character.

Every day, experience convinces me of the justice of the sage Tait-song's opinion, that the heart of man may, in a great measure, be read in his looks. Whether our spirits converse intuitively, or that the stronger workings of the mind mark the exterior organs, I pretend not to say; but of this I myself harbour not the least doubt, there never was a man, who had any one passion highly predominant, but it might be traced in his face by a judicious observer.

I had seen this person before in the first council of the state, of which he is a member, where he harangued long and elaborately (for he is most powerful in words) on a matter then under their consideration;

deration; but I could plainly perceive that his words had not the weight, which in his own opinion they were intitled to. He spoke with a magisterial air, and treated the sentiments of his opponents with contempt; but he had the mortification, which he evidently felt, to find that contempt retorted upon him; his dictates disregarded; and the measures which he reprobated, adopted.

He seemed at first to be disconcerted at my presence; but the benevolent Lord of the mansion telling him who I was, he darted at me a look of inexpressible penetration, which thrilled my heart, tho' my soul met it without fear; then softening his eye, as if satisfied with what he had seen, he proceeded to the occasion of his coming without reserve, or seeming to take any farther notice of me.

“ My friend,” said he, “ I come to expostulate with you, on your coolness in this great affair. How can you sit still as an unconcerned spectator while our dearest rights are at stake? Is it possible,

“ possible, if you had any doubts upon
“ your mind before, that my arguments
“ have not removed them? I think I
“ may pretend to some judgment; and
“ never was I so clear, so positive in any
“ thing before. It is absolutely impos-
“ sible that I should not be right.”

“ My dear friend,” answered the other,
“ I know and respect your great judg-
“ ment so much, that I have often sub-
“ mitted my own to it, where I had the
“ faintest shadow of a doubt! But this,
“ I must beg leave to say, I think a
“ matter of too great consequence to pay
“ compliment in.

“ It may very probably be the fault
“ of my comprehension; but still so it
“ is, that I am not perfectly convinced
“ by your arguments, and much fear,
“ that, if they are admitted, they will be
“ attended by consequences which you
“ do not seem to apprehend; that if they
“ prove any thing, they will prove too
“ much; and that the inconvenience they
“ will introduce, will be worse than the
“ evil

“evil they are designed to remedy. And
 “if your arguments cannot convince
 “me, the fault must certainly be in the
 “subject, as it is not possible for man
 “to say more on it than you have done.”

“Patience! Grant me me patience!”
 replied the statesman, starting upon his
 crutches, “is it possible that any man
 “can be so stupid? and is my word to
 “have no weight? Is not the freedom
 “of the subject the foundation of our
 “constitution? and can any man be said
 “to be free, into whose purse another
 “can thrust his hand and take his money
 “without his consent? The supposi-
 “tion is as absurd as the attempt was un-
 “just, and subversive of our dearest
 “rights. They are not represented, and
 “therefore they have given no consent.”

“I have already acknowledged, and I
 “acknowledge again,” returned the no-
 bleman, with the most engaging air of mo-
 desty and candour, “that it may very
 “possibly be the fault of my compre-
 “hension! But my friend will bear
 “with

“ with my weakness for a minute, and
“ condescend to inform a mind, whose
“ powers cannot keep pace with his.

“ You have said, that as they are not
“ represented, they have given no con-
“ sent, and that to take their money with-
“ out their consent is subversive of their
“ dearest rights. Pray, may not this
“ reasoning reach too far? If no per-
“ son ought to pay taxes to the govern-
“ ment who is not represented, I appre-
“ hend that much the greater part of the
“ people of this kingdom have the same
“ plea. Is any person represented, who
“ has not even a right to choose his
“ own representative? and how few!
“ comparatively, how very few, among
“ us, have that right? The consequence
“ is obvious.

“ Besides, if we have not a right to
“ tax them, how can we have any right
“ to govern them; for, is not the
“ right of taxation of the very essence of
“ government? Where can the line be
“ drawn? If this is admitted, where
“ can

“ can we expect to stop? The consequences, which appear to me to follow necessarily from your position, I own fill me with apprehension; and till I am convinced that these consequences are not to be apprehended, I should betray the rights of my country to join you, because I should do it against my judgment.”

“ Can any thing be so absurd!” exclaimed the statesman, “ any man be so obstinately blind! Have I not distinguished, repeatedly distinguished, between external government, and internal taxation; to deny our having the former of which would be as direct treason in them, as it is tyranny in us to usurp the latter.”

“ I must again own my incapacity,” answered the nobleman; “ but really the distinction you make seems to me to be without a difference; nor does it in any respect obviate the consequences. There is no man who holds your judgment in higher respect than I do; but I hold your good opinion in respect also;
“ so;

“so; and I am confident I should forfeit
“that, in a cooler moment, were I to
“subject my own reason to the mere au-
“thority of any man. It is what you
“would not do, I am certain.”

“I! I give up my opinion;” inter-
rupted the statesman, haughtily: “no!”
“never did I! nor ever will I submit my
“own opinion to that of any other man!”

“And yet,” added the nobleman, “you
“have sometimes thought proper to
“change it.”

“That was, when I saw reason for
“such a change myself,” answered the
statesman; “and not in compliance with
“the opinion of any other man.”

“Well then, my dear friend,” replied
the nobleman, with a dignity in his man-
ner which he had not exerted before,
“stupid as I am, I have yet sense enough
“to imitate your example. When I see
“sufficient reason, even though it is
“shewn to me by another, I will also
“change

“ change my opinion : till then I think it
 “ my duty to adhere to it, in preference
 “ to that of any other man, without I
 “ can find one who is infallible ; which
 “ I own I despair of, after having heard
 “ the greatest man I ever knew unsay
 “ positively every day, for seven years,
 “ what I had heard him as positively say
 “ every day for twenty years before.”

The statesman would hear no more.
 He directly departed without salute or
 ceremony, muttering to himself some-
 thing, which, from his look and accent,
 did not seem to be very complaisant.

As soon as he was gone, the nobleman
 turned to me ; and resuming his former
 placid serenity, “ I am sorry,” said he,
 “ that you have been so badly entertain-
 “ ed. My friend is of a warm temper,
 “ and apt to lose sight of smaller matters,
 “ amid the great objects which always
 “ engage his attention. He has his faults ;
 “ for who is without them ? but they
 “ are drowned in the splendor of his vir-
 “ tues.
 “ The

“ The subject of our little controversy is of a very serious nature. We have taxed our colonies; who have refused to pay the tax, though confessedly laid for their own advantage.

“ On discussing so delicate an affair, my friend here justifies their refusal by denying our right to tax them, for the reasons you heard him assign; which appear to me far from conclusive, to speak in the most favourable terms.

“ In this delicate situation, what is to be done? To support our authority may too probably plunge us into all the horrors of a civil war! To give it up, will be to cut off our right, by giving up an empire, to establish which we have exhausted ourselves. The alternative is dreadful; nor dare I to look forward to the consequence, whatever side we take.”

On my hinting to him the observation I had made on his friend in the great council, he shook his head; and with a sigh,

"It is too true!" said he. "He has lost
 "his weight; and he alone does not per-
 "ceive it. He thinks to rule the first
 "council, with the same arbitrary sway
 "as he did the second, where the words
 "of his mouth were received as law for
 "many years. But the scene is chang-
 "ed, and his state with it. He disdains
 "to persuade, and he is not admitted to
 "dictate. He fell from his consequence,
 "when he rose in rank."

"But we are interrupted. If you will
 "do me the pleasure of coming at
 "some other time, and on an earlier hour,
 "for I am not such a slave either to
 "luxury or form as to waste the prime
 "of the day in sleep, I shall then be
 "alone, and will explain those matters
 "to you."

I have conceived the warmest esteem
 for this truly-noble man; and will not
 fail to avail myself his of gracious invita-
 tion. If people, O! Chang-ti, were but
 sensible of the effects of affability, they
 never would assume a contrary deport-

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ment. But perhaps this is no more than idle speculation; that the turn of a man's behaviour is directed by nature; and no more in his own power than the height of his stature.

MY respect for the illustrious person for whom was the subject of my challenge, would not permit my joining anything else with him; though the morning was not unfruitful of other matters.

On leaving his Lodging, I went to the Park, to attend the appointment of my friends' relation. I found a large field, in the middle of this park, where, at certain hours of the day, I have known for people of all ranks to walk (for every thing is free) I found it to be a fine place, and where a gentleman might find it to be a fine place, those who have nothing else to do.

or can do nothing else, spend a considerable part of every day at their leisure, talking of news, and making remarks upon the day's work, and so on.

LETTER
forward. If people, O! Caring it, were but I had scarce measured half the length of the field, when I was struck by the sight.

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LETTER XVII.

MY respect for the illustrious person, who was the subject of my last letter, would not permit my joining any thing else with him; though the morning was not unfruitful of other matter.

On leaving his Lordship, I went to the Park, to attend the appointment of my friend's relation. This is a large field, in the middle of this populous city, where, at certain hours of the day, it is the fashion for people of distinction to walk, (for every thing here is governed by fashion) and where, as it is open to all ranks, those who have nothing else to do, or can do nothing else, spend a considerable part of every day of their lives in talking of news, and making remarks upon each other as they walk back and forward.

I had scarce measured half the length of the field, when I was struck by the
L. 2
sight

sight of a person sitting alone, in a pensive attitude, upon one of the benches, which are placed there for publick convenience.

He looked to have passed the noon-tide stage of life. His features wore a deep cast of thought, through which, every now and then, broke a smile of self-complacency, which seemed but badly suited to the poverty of his appearance. I instantly felt the strongest desire to know something of him. It occurred to me, that the smile, which I saw, might be a ray of conscious virtue forcing its way through a cloud of unmerited misfortune, which possibly I might have the happiness of being able to lighten.

The impulse of this thought was not to be resisted. I directly availed myself of the privilege of the place, and sat down near him, in hope that he might be tempted to enter into conversation with me.

Nor

Nor did I wait long for the accomplishment of that hope. He cast a slight look at me; when the particularity of my features happening to take his notice, his countenance cleared up, and he returned my salute with complaisance.

The preliminaries of conversation, I believe, are equally trifling in all countries. In this, they always turn on the weather. Impertinent as it may appear in speculation to tell a person what he already knows, and cannot but know as well as you; that "it is a fine day," or "a bad day," is usually the first thing said, even among people who have things of real importance to say.

After this introduction, and the offer of his snuff, with which his face and breast were plentifully begrimed, "I presume, Sir," said he, "that you are not of this country. Of India perhaps."

On my answering, "Of China," his eyes sparkled with joy.

"Of China!" he continued. "May I hope, that I have the honour of speaking to the illustrious Mandarin who has been lately introduced at court?"

On my bowing in assent, "This is an happiness, Sir," said he, drawing nearer to me on the seat, "which I ardently wished for, although I scarce knew how to obtain it. I understand from the publick papers, that the motive for your undertaking this long and perilous voyage, was, to inform yourself in the laws and customs of this country, in order to try, if you can find any thing which may be introduced into your own to its advantage. The motive was truly laudable, and I have no doubt of your judgment and abilities to accomplish it.

"But you will give me leave to say, that, to acquire a just knowledge of this country, it is not sufficient to know barely what has been done in it; you must also know what might, what should have been done; and that information,

formation, I think, I may without vanity say, no man is better able to give you than myself. Every advantageous measure, which has been pursued for thirty years past, has been of my suggesting; and many more of the greatest importance have I suggested, which ignorance, or envy of the glory I should have acquired, have prevented from being pursued.

You may probably be surprised to hear this from a man of my plain appearance: but appearances are not always safe to judge from; and that mine is no better, is not owing to my fault, but to the base ingratitude of those, who have availed themselves of my labours, without giving me any share of the profits which they have reaped from them; for I can say, with honest pride, that to the service of my country have I devoted all my time and thoughts, ever since I have been capable of thinking, always to its advantage and never to my own; so prevalent, as I have said before, is that

“envy, which for ever pursues publick
“spirit.

“I have calculated our strength, and
“shewn how it may be encreased an hun-
“dred fold ! I have calculated our debts,
“and proved that they may be paid
“without burthening our people with a
“shilling more ; for I have also calcu-
“lated our taxes, and shewn how they
“may produce double their present a-
“mount, with greater ease both in the
“collection and payment.

“Now, Sir, if you think abilities of
“this kind may be of service to your
“country, I shall, with pleasure, accom-
“pany you thither, and devote them to
“it ; and I hope you will not think you
“can carry home any thing more valua-
“ble. I labour for the universal good
“of mankind, and therefore hold all the
“world my native country.”

The contrast between the appearance
and sentiments of this public-spirited per-
son gave so strong a cast of the ridicu-
lous

lous to his words, that I should have found it difficult to preserve a serious countenance, had it not been for the thought of his distress.

As soon as he had finished his proposal, he fixed his eyes upon me with an air of anxiety, too evident through all the importance he affected to assume.

I answered him, in the most respectful and encouraging manner, that such abilities as his would be a most important acquisition to any country; but unluckily I had not power to take home any person with me. However, that should not prevent my endeavouring to profit by his instructions while I should stay, provided he would permit me to make a return for the trouble it must be to him; saying which, I put a few pieces of gold into his hand.

It is impossible to paint the changes of his countenance which accompanied my words. But when I came to the conclusion, when he felt the gold in his hand,

he could contain himself no longer. "O! Sir," said he, with a quivering lip, while the tear of joy glistened in his eye, "you are too generous, too good! Happy must that country be, whose princes have a way of thinking so truly noble."

Then, seeming to recover himself a little, "But it shall be my care, my glory," he continued, "that you shall not repent of your generosity; of which, if you will let me know where you live, I will, with permission, wait upon you with ample proof next Sunday."

No man, who has not, like you, experienced the happiness of making another happy, can conceive what I felt on this occasion. No moment of my life was ever sweetened with sublimer joy. Surely, if in any thing the happiness of man can resemble that of the Deity, it must be in this, which results immediately from the nearest imitation of him possible to our nature.

The

The arrival of my companion interrupted these most pleasing sensations. He saw that I was affected, and, with his usual levity, proposed a turn or two to shake off the softness, which he said he supposed the melancholy notes of some of the nightingales of the grove had inspired me with; for the visionary politician had left me before he came.

One of the first persons we met in our walk was the founder of hospitals for broken lords. I had conceived such an abhorrence of him, that I would have turned away to avoid his salute; but my companion prevented me. "Stop a moment," said he, "and you shall see me pay him in his own coin. There is no way of fighting the Devil, but at his own weapons. Keep your countenance: that is all I ask."

Before I could make any answer, the man separated from a group of figures of his own kind, and advancing towards us, with a sneer upon his face, paid his com-

pliments to me; to which I made a very cold return.

But my companion did not give him time to observe this. "Do not disturb him," said he, in a low voice, pulling the other by the sleeve, and winking to him at the same time, "his thoughts are now in China. He has just been with the Archbishop of Canterbury to propose an union between our religion and that of Confucius, with which his Grace was so well pleased, that he offered to undertake the mission himself; but my friend here has heard so much of the divinity of the legation of Moses, that he has set his heart upon having the person who, after so many ages, had discovered it; so that the Archbishop and he have parted not the best pleased with each other, which has put my friend a little in the pen-sives, as you see."

"Good Heavens!" exclaimed the other, so enchanted by the strangeness of the news, that he entirely overlooked the absurdity of it, "the Archbishop of Canterbury

“Canterbury go a missionary to China!
“That is a most wonderful instance of
“his zeal indeed! Surely the other will
“not dispute so extraordinary a point of
“honour with him. Well! I never could
“have thought so much of either of
“them. But men, I see, are not to be
“judged by appearances. I am sorry I
“am engaged. Pray make my com-
“pliments to your friend, when he is
“sufficiently master of himself to re-
“ceive them. Business, you know, must
“be minded.”—Saying which, he hur-
ried away, bursting with what he had
heard, to his company, whom I saw wait-
ing for him.

Though I had not had power to in-
terrupt my companion in the rapidity of
his tale, I could not avoid expressing my
amazement, and indeed disapprobation of
it, as soon as the gorged gull departed:
but he cut me short before I could well
open my mouth; “Hold!” said he;
“this is but the prologue to the farce!”
“Here comes the one, who is to con-
“clude it.”

Just as he said this, we were joined by a walking skeleton, the figure of a living Death, who, without any other preface than a nod of his shaking head, asked him, in a voice as hollow as if it issued from a tomb, "What news?"

"News!" answered my companion; "why, is it possible that you have not heard the news?"

"What news! What news!" replied the other, pulling off his hat, and wiping his withered face; "I have heard none."

"That is amazing!" returned my companion; "I thought the whole town must have known it. You know the affair of Lady Touchwood; and how sanguinely the old judge has taken her part against her husband! That gentleman, whom you have just seen part from us," (pointing to the hospital-builder) "told us this minute, that there has been an intrigue of some years standing between them."

"In

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"In truth, very likely!" replied the other; "in truth, very likely. I always thought there must have been some secret reason, which the world knew nothing of, for his being so sanguine in her cause! But how did he say it was discovered? How was it found out?"

"By the strangest accident in the world," answered my companion. "You know these old judges write miserable scrolls. A letter, which he had written to the Lady, was delivered to her Lord, the servant not being able to read the direction, and so the whole matter came out. But surely this must be known at the Smyrna before now: It was whispered about above an hour ago."

"I believe not, Sir," mumbled out the old newsmonger. "I hope not yet. Sir, I am much obliged to you. I am your most humble servant."

"But pray, Sir," added my companion, catching hold of his hand on purpose to plague him, as he knew his eagerness

egerness to be the first spreader of the news, "pray, Sir, do not take any notice of this affair by any means! Or, if you should chance to mention it, I insist that you do not say whom you had it from. It was told to me as a secret, that possibly may not be publick these two or three hours yet."

"Never fear!" answered the other, struggling to pull away his hand; "never fear! I will never mention your name, upon my honour." — Saying which he broke away, and hobbled off, as fast as his bare bones would carry him, to have the honour of being the first propagater of the news at the coffee-house.

"Now," said my companion, turning to me with a smile of exultation, "now have I avenged you on that old shark: he'll never consult you on any more of his schemes. The news I have told! — Himself will draw the laugh of the world upon him for swallowing such an absurdity, for I know he will spread it with all his industry; and that which

“ which I have fathered upon him, will
 “ set all the retainers of the law upon
 “ his back, in order to scrape favour
 “ with their superior; so that the old
 “ dog will be worried to death.”

“ But is there no danger of other con-
 “ sequence, ?” I asked,—of your being
 “ brought into the scrape ?”

“ None, in the least,” he answered.
 “ The prelate will be ashamed to take
 “ notice of such a ridiculous story; and
 “ as for the judge! he will never be an-
 “ gry with any one for accusing him of
 “ an amour with a woman.”

“ Observe how the set mumble over
 “ the news!” (They just then passed us.)
 “ The pleasure, the business of their
 “ lives is to propagate private scandal.
 “ A similarity of disposition has created
 “ what they call friendship between them.
 “ They meet here regularly every day to
 “ communicate what they have picked
 “ up elsewhere; but there all their friend-
 “ ship ends. Intimate, inseparably inti-
 “ mate

“mate as they appear to be, there is not
 “one of them who has ever sat down at
 “the table of another, or perhaps even
 “darkened his doors.”

My companion did not fail to boast of these exploits, on our return home; but I could plainly see, that though my friend joined in the laugh, by which he applauded his own wit, she was far from approving the means by which it was raised. Mirth certainly costs too dear, when it is excited at the expence of truth; nor can there be a more dangerous character, than that of a man of wit, if it is to be acquired only in this manner.

LETTER

LETTER XVIII.

IT was a remark of the sage Tait-song, that Nature, to prevent confusion in the infinite variety of her works, has not only distinguished every species, but also every individual of that species from each other, both in the vegetable and animal worlds; insomuch, that there are not two leaves upon a tree which have not a mark of difference between them; nor any two among the numberless sons of men, who cannot be as certainly known from each other, as from any other animals of the creation.

May we not venture to extend this remark still farther, and say, that the inhabitants of the great divisions of the world are also distinguished by a peculiar shade of colour, or turn of feature, as generical marks by which their aboriginal countries may be known.

Without entering into an examination of the duty of keeping up these marks, which

which is made so essential a part of the religion of some countries, as it can be the only reason for their never marrying out of their own tribes, I shall only say, that, from the first moment the thought struck me, I have taken particular pleasure in developing this distinction; in which I think I have arrived at such a degree of accuracy, that, from a view of the face, I can not only discover the country, but, what is much more difficult, the several countries, from which a man derives his descent, according to the various inter-mixtures of his progenitors.

For this purpose, I frequently go to the publick-houses of this commercial city, where I am sure of meeting with natives of every country under Heaven; and, while all around me are employed in over-reaching each other, I read their respective countries, and often their very thoughts in their looks; as every country has a way of thinking, or bent of mind, in some particular peculiar to itself; so that, from the prevailing feature of the face, I can,

I can, without much danger of mistake, discover the disposition of the heart.

But if some countries endeavour to preserve these distinctions, there are others, who seem to be at no less pains to efface them.

What was the aboriginal shade of complexion, or turn of feature of the natives of this island, I have not, on the most attentive observation, been able to discover; never having seen one simply-English face among them, indeed I may say, one face, in which I could not trace the several colours and features of almost every country on the globe, so manifold have the intermixtures of their progenitors been; and this has enabled me to account for some tracts in their national character, which have hitherto baffled the sagacity of the curious.

From the combination of so many peculiarities of sentiment, proceeds that undefinable turn of thought called *Humour*, for which this people are more remarkable

ble than those of any other country. For what, but *Oddity* itself, is possible to be expected from the phlegm of Germany, the vivacity of France, the pride of Spain, the finesse of Italy, the cunning of Scotland, the blunders of Ireland, &c. &c. all jumbled together in one heterogeneous compound.

From a like combination of features proceeds also their being the most beautiful of the human race, as we were obliged to acknowledge, when custom had worn off the disgust which strangeness naturally raised against them, on our first arrival at Quang-tong. A particular people may excel them in a particular feature; but in the assemblage of the whole, they are not to be equalled; for variety is the essence of beauty.

But there are certain limits in all things, beyond which, if the greatest advantage is pushed, it will of necessity change its nature.

Much

Much as the English may have gained by this equivocal generation, as without great impropriety it may be called, I think I may safely say, that if they pursue the addition they have lately begun to make to it, by mixing with Jews and negroes, their progeny will not much longer have reason to value themselves on their beauty, wit, or virtue.

And now, that I have mentioned the Jews, I cannot forbear observing to you, that they at present enjoy more advantages in this country, than they ever did in any other, since they were driven out of their own to wander over the face of the earth; or perhaps, while they were in it.

Among us, as they will not support the publick stock, by labouring to supply as much as they consume, their sojourning is never permitted to be long. We suffer not the useless drone to starve the industrious bee.

But

But here, contrary to all principles of good policy, they are suffered to suck the marrow out of the bone, to prey upon the vitals of the state, without contributing either to the honour or advantage of it: never bearing arms in her wars, never tilling the ground, nor entering into commerce on those enlarged principles, which alone make it of national advantage; their only trade being peddling; their only traffick in money, by their usurious dealings in which, it being a fundamental tenet of their religion to defraud all other people, and particularly those among whom they live, they will ere long possess themselves of all the wealth of the nation, if there is not a stop put to them.

The difference between the treatment of this people here at present, and that which they have met in former times, affords a striking proof of the advances of civilization, and the benefits arising from it to society.

I have

I have read in a book of the best authority, that a King of this country having demanded a large sum of money from the Jews, according to a certain rate of personal taxation, one of them, who was taxed very high, pleaded inability; but as he was known to be very rich, instead of listening to his plea, the King ordered that he should be thrown into prison, and a tooth plucked out of his head every day till he complied.

The stiff-necked Jew stood this torture for seven days successively, rather than part with his beloved wealth; at the end of which time his resolution failed him, and he paid the tax, with the additional loss of seven of his grinders: an outrage which could not have been offered to an individual of any other people; but so violently was the publick indignation raised against them by their nefarious practices of every kind, that the nation looked, without displeasure, at a violation of their laws against wretches, whom they held unworthy of their protection.

But though the advance of civilization, as I observed before, secures them from suffering such outrages any more, and the beneficent spirit of the laws supports every person indiscriminately, of whatever country or religion, in the enjoyment of liberty and property, the general sense of the nation, an irresistible force when once put in action, is far from being favourable to them; as they lately experienced in a signal instance, when the whole body of the legislature was obliged by it to rescind their own act, and repeal certain laws, thought too advantageous to them, which had been enacted, from interested motives, by certain persons in high station.

Nor do they seem to be perfectly safe from a like reverse at this very time. The measure of their misdoings has been filled, till it overflows the brim; and the same general voice, which then deprived them of a legal settlement in the country, may again be raised so loudly, as to drive them entirely out of it. It is a maxim in philosophy, that what has been may be.

LETTER

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LETTER XIX.

I Have just received a visit from the publick-spirited politician, who, as I have mentioned to you, offered to accompany me into China, and dedicate his labours to the service of our country. There was an alteration in his appearance which gave me the highest pleasure, as I had reason to think that I had been happily instrumental in it.

After the warmest expressions of respect and gratitude, which I suppressed as much as I could, he told me, that to make some return for my generosity to him, as well as to prove himself not unworthy of my future favour, he had devoted his time and thoughts, since he had seen me, to drawing up a scheme for the aggrandizement of the Chinese empire; the outlines of which he had brought with him, and if I pleased would look over with me that morning, to correct any thing I might happen to object to, before

he should proceed to finish it ; as an error in the first setting out must necessarily lead him into many more in the process of the work : saying which, he pulled a bundle of papers out of his bosom, so large, that I could scarce have imagined he could transcribe, much less bestow thought upon them in the time.

Curiosity, as well as complaisance, would not permit my refusing to comply with so extraordinary a request. Assuming therefore a look of the most obliging attention, I told him I would, with the greatest pleasure, hear whatever he should please to communicate to me.

This was all he desired, all he seemed to think necessary for making him happy, as I might judge from the joy which instantly enlightened his face. He waited not therefore for another word, but spreading his papers on the table, which stood before me, and unbuttoning his bosom, he began thus :

“ The

“The empire of China, as it is laid
 “down in Salmon, is two thousand miles
 “long, and sixteen hundred miles broad,
 “which numbers, multiplied into each
 “other, make a superficies of three
 “million two hundred thousand square
 “miles.

“Now by the same authority (which I
 “suppose to be right, though my argu-
 “ment will hold good on any given num-
 “ber) I find, that the number of the peo-
 “ple inhabiting that vast tract of coun-
 “try is no more than fifty millions; lit-
 “tle more than one third, or five eigh-
 “teenths and an half, of the number
 “which such a superficies of earth should
 “produce: which I prove thus;

“A square mile of ground is suffi-
 “cient to lodge and support one hundred
 “souls. Now three millions two hun-
 “dred thousand square miles of ground,
 “multiplied by one hundred, the num-
 “ber of people proper for each mile to
 “produce, give three hundred and twen-

“ ty millions; the number of people
“ which your empire should contain.

“ But then, as in so large a tract of
“ ground there may be supposed to be
“ some part waste, such as mountains,
“ rivers, roads, &c. if for these we de-
“ duct one fourth-part, or eighty thou-
“ sand square miles, the remainder will
“ be two hundred and forty millions,
“ which, multiplied as before by one hun-
“ dred, the number allowed to each mile,
“ make two millions four hundred thou-
“ sand; from whence, to make another
“ deduction of one-fourth, or sixty thou-
“ sand, for casual deficiencies, the most
“ which can be thought reasonable to de-
“ duct, there will remain one hundred
“ and eighty millions, which is the lowest
“ number of people the empire of Chi-
“ na ought to contain. The next point
“ is, to shew how population is to be in-
“ creased so as to produce this number,
“ which will render the empire of China
“ the most populous, and of conse-
“ quence the most powerful which ever
“ was

“ was in the world—the thing proposed.”

I was just smothered under such an heap of calculations, when the opportune entrance of another visiter relieved me. This was the builder of hospitals for broken Lords.

It is impossible to describe the rage, into which this interruption threw the politician. He gathered up his papers; and huddling them into his bosom, “ I must defer the rest, Sir,” said he, darting a look of ineffable malignancy at the other, “ to a time when you shall be at leisure: at present, I see you are engaged.” — Saying which, he took his leave in a state of mind very different from that in which he came.

But I could not bear the thought of disappointing him entirely of the fruit of so much labour. I went with him to the door, and, telling him that I had a proper sense of his great merit, slipped a few more pieces of gold into his hand as I

returned his salute at parting, and so restored him to good temper.

Glad as I was of being delivered from such a scene, it was not without reluctance that I could prevail upon myself to behave with complaisance to my deliverer: but he soon turned my resentment into contempt. The sneer, which simpered on his face, when I saw him before, was gone. He looked harrassed, dejected, and sore at heart.

“ Sir,” said he, “ I come to complain,
“ to require justice for the gross abuse
“ which I received in your presence, and
“ under the sanction of your name. The
“ story of the Archbishop’s offer to go
“ with you to China, has brought the
“ whole town upon my back. These
“ people think their character too sacred
“ to be jested with; and I do not know
“ what injury he may do me. Nor is
“ this the worst of it. I am laughed at
“ in the coffee-house, pointed at in the
“ Park, for being such a gull as to
“ swallow

"swallow so absurd a falsehood. It was
 "using me extremely ill, and therefore I
 "expect you will do me justice."

"I should be very sorry," I answered,
 with as serious a face as I could possibly
 put on, "to do injustice to any person.
 "It was not I who told you that idle
 "story; nor did you appeal to me for
 "the truth of it. I therefore cannot
 "think myself, in any respect, answer-
 "able for what you have suffered by pro-
 "pagating it."

"But, good Sir," he replied, "tho'
 "you did not directly tell it yourself,
 "you did not contradict it, and that
 "was the same thing. You must, in
 "conscience, therefore help me out of
 "the scrape by a letter in the papers, or
 "some such way, or I shall never be
 "able to shew my face. No one will tell
 "me any thing! No one will listen to
 "what I say. I shall be in the most mi-
 "serable situation of any man alive. Not
 "to mention the Archbishop's resent-
 M 5 "ment

"ment—and churchmen you know are
"implacable."

"As for the ridicule of the publick,"
I returned, "I suppose few can laugh at
"you, whom you have not laughed at
"heretofore on some such occasion; and
"the Archbishop you may easily pacify,
"by making him President of your hos-
"pital."

"O Sir! good Sir!" he interrupted;
"consider the difference. I humbly ask
"your pardon for my pleasantry; but
"consider the difference. What I said
"was merely a jest, an innocent jest;
"but this is a serious matter, and may be
"attended with bad consequences. I
"could never think that you would coun-
"tenance an untruth, and therefore have
"not scrupled to repeat the story in se-
"veral places."

"I really should not have sacrificed
"truth," I returned, "to resentment of
"your impositions upon me, however
"ungenerous it was to a stranger; but I
"did

“ did not think it so necessary for me to
“ prevent your having your own game
“ played back upon yourself by another,
“ no more than I think it necessary
“ for me now to give myself any trou-
“ ble about preventing consequences,
“ which I am well assured cannot be
“ serious, nor worse than you well de-
“ serve.”

“ This is very severe!” he replied;
“ very unkind indeed. However, I have
“ the satisfaction to think that your in-
“ genious friend will not have all the
“ laugh to himself neither. He also
“ may chance to suffer for that scanda-
“ lous story about the Judge and my La-
“ dy, which he fathered upon me to that
“ old Driveler, who joined you just af-
“ ter I left you. I have cleared myself
“ of that, though not without some trou-
“ ble. I have been with the Judge, and
“ my Lady too, and denied it flatly. It
“ is true, I may have repeated it perhaps
“ in two or three companies; but the first
“ author is the thing. I have set the sad-
“ dle on the right horse; and now if it
M 6 “ galls

"galls him, he must thank himself for
"it.

"But, my dear Sir, will you not be
"so kind as to write, or at least suffer
"me to write a letter to myself, in your
"name, to get me out of this unlucky
"scrape. I will pay for putting it into
"the papers myself, if you should de-
"cline the expence; and that surely will
"remove every objection you can have
"to doing me so great a favour. Consi-
"der, I cannot shew my face."

I told him, it was displeasing to me to
be asked any thing which I could not
properly do. That I had no part, nor
would have any in the affair: and that
he must excuse my saying, that, if he had
no other reason to be ashamed of shewing
his face, this would soon blow over, and
his reputation be as good as it was before.
This answer put an end to his importuni-
ty, and I hope will free me from his vi-
sits for the future.

But

But after all, though I by no means pity him, I am as far from approving the method which was taken to be avenged on him. Truth is too sacred to be jested with on any account; and the moment a man retorts one falsehood with another, he gives up the superiority he had before, and lowers himself to the level of the first aggressor.

He had not left me many minutes when his antagonist entered. It is not possible to express his triumph at such a victory. An hero, who had conquered the world, could not be more elate at his success.

Nor were his spirits in the least lowered, by my telling him what the other had said about the Judge. On the contrary, he insisted on my going with him that morning to the coffee-house, which the other old man frequented, in order to share in his triumph over him also.

As he knew I was disengaged, it was not well in my power to have refused him, had I been so inclined, which was
not

not the case. I was not without some curiosity to see how he would extricate himself from a difficulty, which, to me, appeared not a little embarrassing.

We had scarcely entered the room, when the whole company opened upon him together, for the imprudence as well as the impropriety of inventing such a story. The command of countenance, which he shewed under this attack, is not to be conceived. "Pray, gentlemen," he answered, with a look and accent of surprise sufficient to deceive suspicion itself, "what story do you mean? I am "utterly unable to comprehend you."

The surprise of the whole company was now equal to that which he affected. One of them immediately repeated the story, with many malignant additions which it had received in its travels; while the man of wit listened with the greatest attention, lifting up his hands and eyes, as in astonishment and horror, at every word he heard.

Just as the story was ended, the old man entered time enough to hear him ask, who could be the author of such an infamous falsehood?

This naturally turned all their eyes upon the other, with an expression which he could not but understand. "How, Sir!" said he, as soon as his astonishment permitted him to speak; "have you forgot that you told me this story a few mornings ago in the Park?"

"I have heard of this before!" said the man of wit, addressing himself to the company. "I have heard of his fathering his falsehood upon others; but I could never have believed that he would have had the assurance to do it to my face."

Then turning to the old man, who stood trembling with rage and surprise, "Is it possible," he continued, "that you can persist in saying I was the author of this story?"

"Is

“Is it possible that you can deny it?” sputtered the other; “that you were my author I insist. Who was yours you best know.”

“Gentlemen,” said the man of wit, with a shrug of his shoulders, and a stare of astonishment, “it is in vain: it is beneath me to enter into argument with a man who certainly doats. I declare upon my word of honour, that I never heard a syllable of the matter till this moment; and you are now to credit which you please, him or me.”

The serious air with which he said this, gave it the effect he desired. The promptitude of his invention, the pliability of his honour were yet undiscovered; his antagonist was well known, and so the decision was unanimously in his favour.

But I shortened the duration of his triumph. The scene was truly painful to me; besides, I feared to be appealed to. I withdrew therefore directly; and his respect, either for myself, or for his relation,

tion, who he knows respects me, would not permit him to stay behind.

This triumph of impudence over truth alarms me. I may possibly harbour a viper in my bosom, who may one day turn his venom upon myself. I will be more upon my reserve with him for the future.

As soon as we were out of the coffee-room, he asked me, exultingly, if he had not borne it through well? I answered, dryly, that I hoped that day's experience would shew him the consequence of being known to have a disregard to truth; as that had been able to turn the scale against his antagonist, though he had happened to have the truth on his side.

This affair made such an impression on my spirits, that my friend perceived it, and, as soon as we were alone, asked me, with the anxiety of friendship, what I ailed?

You

You know it is my principle, that among friends there should be no reserve. I directly told her the whole story, with my sentiments and apprehensions from it.

She heard me with attention, and appeared to be truly affected at what I said. As soon as I had ended, "Your observations," said she, "are too just; and I am sincerely concerned for the force of them: But still I hope the best. The young man has great vivacity, and but little experience. Time, therefore, as it will add to the one, will, I hope, correct the other; for I think he has not a bad heart. His dependance upon my friendship makes me delicate in giving him advice; as it might look like assuming an authority, which I should think it most ungenerous to exert."

"But you, my friend, are not under the same restraint. You can speak to him without reserve; and I know he

" pays

"pays the highest deference to every
"thing you say."

I must obey this excellent woman, al-
though I am far from being confident of
success.

LETTER

LETTER XX.

AN unfortunate event has saved me the trouble of making the experiment, with the mention of which I concluded my last letter.

Gracious Heaven! what a strange people these are? How prodigal of life, in the most trivial, the most unworthy cause? My friend's relation has been run thro' the body with a sword by a military officer, for some exertions of his inventive wit on the reputation of a common prostitute; nor is his antagonist in a much better state.

This savage custom of determining private disputes by the sword, a custom unknown among us, is one of the last remains of ignorance and barbarism.

I thought, at first, that it must originally have been the consequence of ebriety, as it is most practised in that state of madness;

ness; but upon better enquiry I find, that the people in Europe least addicted to that vice, were the first known to have practised it; I mean, the Spaniards*.

This set me upon making farther enquiry; the result of which was the following account, which has the appearance of probability at least, and that is more than many of the accounts I have received can boast of.

Self-preservation first united mankind in civil society. For the conduct of that society laws were framed by mutual consent; or, which is the same thing, a power of decision in disputed matters was conferred on some person.

But as these laws could not at the first comprehend all causes of dispute; and the person who had the authority of de-

* The first mention of a duel found in history, is in the time of the second Punic war, when two Spanish Princes desired permission from Scipio to determine their respective right of succession to the dominions of their ancestors by single combat.

ciding might be at a distance, or entertain doubts on which side justice lay, the parties recurred to the state of nature, and took the decision upon themselves in the first instance; or were remitted to it in the last, on a presumption, that the event must be just, because directed by divine justice.

Now, as both these causes are totally removed, that is, as the sovereign power is always and every where virtually present, by the officers entrusted with the execution of it; and as polity is carried so near to perfection, that there are very few, if indeed any, subjects of dispute for which a rule of decision is not prescribed, recurring thus wantonly to the state of nature is, in effect, an act of rebellion against the laws and government of a country, as full and direct, as if the persons were to attempt dethroning the Sovereign, and overturning the state; as it is an express usurpation of their most essential power in the very instance for which that power was first established; and till it is considered in this light, and punished as

treason in the same manner with coining money, it never will be abolished.

That polity is brought so near to perfection, as to take away all just pretence for such an audacious insult to it, is evident from hence, that all the disputes at present referred to this decision, are concerning subjects beneath the attention of legislature to decide, beneath reason to engage in ; I mean those disputes for which a regular and just rule of decision is not expressly provided.

It is impossible to describe the dread, the horror with which this unfortunate young man was overwhelmed at the thought of approaching death. All his vivacity forsook him. All that fearless levity, with which he had been accustomed to talk of life, now recoiled upon him, and sunk his soul in despair.

When I approached the bed whereon he lay, he was not permitted to exhaust the poor remains of his strength in efforts to speak ; but his looks expressed his

his sentiments more strongly than any words. He fixed his eyes upon me, and turning them feebly up toward that Heaven, which I had so often heard him profanely defy, closed them languishingly as his head sunk upon the pillow.

The sight was too affecting. I knew my attendance could be of no service to him, and therefore hasted away from a scene, which only gave me unavailing pain.

Is it a weakness in our nature, or is it rather a sympathy for the weakness of nature, which can thus oppose pity to reason? This man has not my esteem. I hold the act by which he has brought himself into this state, in disapprobation even to abhorrence; and yet my heart feels for him.

But mine, the feelings of general humanity, were feeble, in comparison with those of his relation. I had visited him at her request, as she did not think the place where he lay proper for her to go to;

to; and she expected my return with the most anxious impatience.

The moment she saw me, "I see he is gone!" she exclaimed, wringing her hands, and bursting into a flood of tears; "I see by your looks that he is dead, and that I am deprived of the greatest pleasure I had proposed to myself in this life."

Upon how slight a spray will Hope build her nest? On my answering that he was not dead, nor yet absolutely pronounced to be past recovery, though in the greatest danger, her eyes flashed with joy: "I will not then despair," said she; "I may yet have the happiness to accomplish what I have so strongly set my heart upon. Heaven, which has so often exceeded my hopes, will not refuse me this."

A conjecture that instant darted into my mind which I had never entertained before, though now it appeared most obvious. Her attachment to this young

man springs from a more tender cause than consanguinity. She entirely loves him.

And what is strange in that? He is young, cheerful, and well-favoured; and she is in the prime and vigour of life. The thing is but natural; and yet, I know not how it is, I am not pleased with the thought. I would have had her beneficence to him flow from a less interested motive. But—may not my displeasure at this discovery flow from a motive no less interested? I must examine my heart upon this matter. The hour warns me to seek repose.

I rise; but not from rest. The agitation of my mind hath not subsided for a single moment. But I have not waked in vain. The fears, which caused my inquietude, are removed; and I am restored to my own approbation.

I am not the selfish thing I thought. My concern, at discovering that my friend
I loves

loves her relation, proceeds not from my loving her myself and wishing to have my love returned, as I feared. It is an effluence of the purest respect. I could not bear to think, that any act of my benefactor's should flow from any other motive than beneficence.

I was pleasing myself with this thought, when I was summoned to my friend, whom I found fallen from the hopes in which I had left her, having just received an account that her relation was expiring.

The calmness with which she informed me of his fate, surprised me not less than her former emotions. "My hopes are at an end!" said she; "but Heaven will accept my intentions, as it did not think proper to permit the accomplishment of them."

"I have sent for you to remove a suspicion which I saw struck you last night; because I would not, for a single moment,

“ ment, be held in a wrong light, by one
“ to whose opinion I pay so high respect.
“ I should have done it at the time ; but,
“ while there remained any chance for
“ his recovery, I waited to let my ac-
“ tions account for a conduct, the cause
“ of which I wished to conceal : but the
“ reason of that reserve is now remov-
“ ed.

“ I have said that this ill-fated youth
“ was related to me ; but it was by choice,
“ not by blood. He was related to my
“ husband in the nearest degree—the son
“ of his inclination ; and that was suf-
“ ficient to endear him to me : for never
“ shall my heart be cold to the affection
“ which warmed his.

“ My conduct having procured me so
“ honourable a proof of his confidence,
“ as to be entrusted with his secret, it
“ was my first care to find him out on
“ my return to England.

“ I would have paid the same attention
“ to his mother, but I had no clue to
“ guide

“ guide my search for her, my husband
 “ having never told me her name, I pre-
 “ sume out of respect to her family,
 “ which he said was of good repute; as
 “ he also always spoke of her in the most
 “ respectful terms. Though I was by no
 “ means satisfied with his past conduct,
 “ yet, as the most reprehensible part of
 “ it had in a great measure proceeded
 “ from the circumstance of his birth, I
 “ flattered myself that he was not irre-
 “ claimable, and that a sense of his de-
 “ pendance upon my favour, might in-
 “ duce him to strive to merit it, till he
 “ should be confirmed in virtue by habit;
 “ on my being convinced of which, it
 “ was my intention to have brought a-
 “ bout a marriage between him and the
 “ daughter of my first friend, Mr Wil-
 “ liams, if I should find it for their mu-
 “ tual happiness; and by settling my
 “ fortune upon them, pay the debt of
 “ gratitude which I owe to these two
 “ generous protectors of my friendless
 “ youth. But Heaven, which hath de-
 “ feated this intention, will, I trust, in-
 “ spire

"spire another more acceptable to its
"wisdom."

I need not make any remarks on sentiments like these.

Beyond all expectation, the relation of my friend (for so I still must stile him) is expected to recover. It appears that his greatest danger arose from loss of blood; a loss, which, in the morning of life, nature soon repairs. He is not yet permitted to speak more than a few words; but I can read in his eyes the sentiments of a penitent heart; for I see him as often as those who have the care of his recovery think it proper for him to be seen.

How highly my friend feels this restoration of her favourite scheme, I need not say. On the first glimpse of hope, she told me, that she did not repent having communicated to me a secret, which she never meant to have revealed in respect to the confidence of her husband; because she knew it was as safe in my breast

as in her own, and she now could have the assistance of my advice in a matter so interesting to her; and in order to enable me to give that advice, she has introduced to me the daughter of her friend, the other person concerned in it; whom I had not seen before, as she had been sent to another country for her education—a custom not uncommon here.

Strange inconsistency! to impress upon tender minds the manners of a people among whom they are not designed to live, and who differ from them in every principle, civil and religious, as the means of qualifying them to live happily at home. But the event is always answerable to the folly of the thought.

LETTER XXI.

AS the recovery of my friend's relation is now no longer doubted of, I am released from that attendance, which my respect for her, more than regard for himself, induced me to pay him; and have resumed my favourite occupation, of observing the people among whom I am.

With this design, I go every day to one or other of the various coffee-houses with which this town abounds, as the places where people shew themselves with least reserve. I have mentioned these houses before, but not explained the nature of them to you.

They are places where people who have not the power, or think themselves not under the necessity, of improving their time, meet every day, to waste it in unmeaning discourse on matters uninteresting to them. They are called Coffee-houses, because the frequenters of them
are

are supplied with a decoction of that stupifying berry, which they drink, while they doze over the occurrences of the preceding day, or the dreams of speculative statesmen, printed for their entertainment.

As I sat in one of these houses this morning, seemingly attentive only to the paper given me to read, I was struck by the behaviour of one of the company, who was employed in declaiming against the government, with a licentiousness of virulent abuse, unknown, I believe, in any nation upon earth but this.

As soon as he had railed himself out of breath, (till when there was no possibility of interposing a word, such was the rapidity and vehemence of his harangue) a person, who had listened to him with an appearance of perfect unconcern, asked him, with a sneer, How long he had been of that opinion? and on what grounds he had taken it up?

“On what grounds!” retorted the angry declaimer; “on the grounds of conviction: The conviction of a design to overturn the constitution of my country, proved by the incontestible evidence of facts.”

“Will you please,” replied the other drily, “to name the facts upon which you found so heinous a charge.”

“You affect an ignorance,” replied the patriot, “which is impossible: however, to your confusion, I will repeat some of the many facts I mean. Has not the security of private property been invaded by the seizure of papers? Has not the sacred right of election been violated? Can you be ignorant of, can you deny these facts? and do not they prove a design to overturn the constitution?”

“And pray, Sir,” returned the other, “how long is it since these facts have convinced you? And have you not since the time in which these attacks
“ were

“ were made upon the constitution, as
 “ you alledge, offered your service to the
 “ very persons who made them? You
 “ are gravelled, I see; but I will help you
 “ with another fact, more grievous to you
 “ than all the rest, that is, the rejection
 “ of your offer by the ministry. This is
 “ the horrid fact which turned the scale,
 “ and worked your conviction; and to
 “ such facts as this does this coffee-house,
 “ and all other coffee-houses in town,
 “ owe their patriots. When Cerberus
 “ is hungry, he will bark.”

The effect which this speech had upon
 the patriot, is not to be described. He
 would have replied; but the contempt
 with which he saw every eye in the com-
 pany turned upon him, stopped his mouth.
 He arose in the utmost confusion, and
 stalked away, muttering some names of
 vulgar reproach, while all the company
 burst into a loud laugh.

This certainly was a compleat victory;
 but, was it the victory of reason? Was
 it not the man only who was overcome?

and ought not the facts he asserted to have been refuted, as well as himself silenced by a charge merely personal? I must inquire into the reality of these facts.

As soon as the silenced patriot had decamped, a gentleman who sat near me, and happened to know who I was, asked me, if I had ever seen such a scene in China.

The question embarrassed me. I wish not to give my opinion on any thing, because I mean to be a mere spectator here: but as I was asked I must answer, and nothing but the truth will I ever speak.

I replied therefore, that, in my country, government is held sacred, and consequently never spoken of but in terms of reverence; because we know, that sincere obedience cannot be separated from respect. But still, as the men who administer government are liable to error and malversation, the ears of our sovereign

sovereign are always open to the complaints of his people, and the guilty punished.

"That is, I presume," said the conqueror in the late controversy, "when their guilt is proved; not on the noise and rumours of a mob."

"If by the rumours of a mob," I replied, "you mean the voice of the people, that, with us, is held to be the voice of Heaven, and never disregarded by our sovereign, but the noise of individuals is never heard among us; because, as no real grievance is ever left unredressed, a publick clamour would be deemed an insult upon government, and punished with the greatest severity"—Saying which, I directly withdrew, being determined never to enter into argument on any matter, especially politicks or religion.

LETTER

LETTER XXII.

I Said I would inquire into the several facts charged upon the government, by the silenced patriot whom I mentioned in my last letter ; but I am faved that trouble. The nobleman, whom I have informed you of my having visited some time since, condescended to call upon me this morning.

Though, no act of benevolence, or gracious affability in him could give me surprise, I was at a loss to conceive what could be the immediate cause of his doing me so great an honour. But he left me not long in uncertainty.

After the first formalities of address, “ I
“ come, Sir,” said he, “ to return you
“ thanks for the excellent advice which
“ you gave to my country the other
“ morning, in your answer to the gen-
“ tleman, who asked you, If government
“ is

“ is publickly reviled in China as it is
“ among us ?

“ I will not take upon me to say, that
“ there are no causes of complaint ; but
“ this I am convinced of, that the man-
“ ner in which complaints are made here,
“ justly lessens their claim to redress ;
“ and, what aggravates this abuse still
“ more, is, that the greater part, if not
“ perhaps all the complaints thus made,
“ proceed in reality from the same mo-
“ tive with those, for which you heard
“ the complainer so justly reprovèd—dis-
“ appointed interest, or ambition.

“ Though this abuse of the right of
“ complaining is attended with many bad
“ consequences, particularly that which
“ you so justly observed, of lessening
“ the respect that should be paid to go-
“ vernment, I would not by any means
“ have that right taken away. Great
“ as the abuse is, it counterbalances not
“ the use.

“ If

“ If it was forbidden to complain
“ without just cause, who is to judge of
“ that cause? the very power to whom
“ complaint is to be made. If the com-
“ plaint therefore is displeasing to him,
“ he has only to say that it is ground-
“ less, and then the complainant is cut
“ off from all hope of redress, from the
“ last consolation of the wretched—the
“ power of giving vent to their grief.

“ Our laws provide a remedy for eve-
“ ry evil possible for human wisdom to
“ foresee; and all people have unimpeach-
“ ed recourse to them. But what good
“ can human wisdom devise, which hu-
“ man depravity cannot, in some mea-
“ sure, find means to defeat?

“ The judicial delay, provided, with
“ the most beneficent wisdom, to prevent
“ injustice from precipitancy, is often
“ a severer grievance, than the wrong
“ would have been. But then it oftener
“ saves the innocent from suffering the
“ punishment due to guilt.

" To abrogate this delay, therefore,
 " would be to deprive innocence of its
 " best safeguard; and yet there is not an
 " evil so loudly complained of, among
 " us, as the law's delay: not that these
 " complaints are always groundless, or
 " without good effect, when that delay
 " may be abused to the support of in-
 " justice. We must therefore submit to
 " the evil we suffer, rather than make
 " room for a greater, by the removal of
 " it! I mention this, as a comprehen-
 " sive instance of the complaints so loud-
 " ly made both against our laws, and
 " the administrators of them.

" As to the particular facts which
 " you have heard charged, it must be
 " owned that they have been committed.
 " But there are very few facts, the nature
 " of which may not be greatly, if not
 " totally altered by the circumstances
 " which attend them: and this is lite-
 " rally the case with these.

" The right of the people to elect their
 " own representatives in the great coun-
 " cil

“ cil of the nation, is said to have been
“ violated by the rejection of the per-
“ son elected, and the admission of the
“ person rejected.

“ This is an heavy charge, and strikes
“ at the very basis of our constitution;
“ but the circumstances of it must be
“ considered before it is admitted in its
“ utmost latitude.

“ By the same laws which confirm to
“ the collective body of the people their
“ right of choosing their representatives,
“ there is given to the representative bo-
“ dy, thus elected, a right to expel from
“ among them any particular representa-
“ tive, whom they find guilty of any
“ crime or misconduct which makes
“ him improper to be intrusted with so
“ important a charge, of which guilt
“ they are the sole judges: a right found-
“ ed on the clearest reason; as otherwise,
“ the immunities, necessarily annexed to
“ this representation, might be abused, to
“ protect the most atrocious crimes.

“ In

“ In the present instance, an individual was, by the representative body,
 “ expelled from among them, for an insult
 “ offered to the Sovereign. The people,
 “ who are never satisfied with their governors,
 “ chose him again.

“ This was evidently bidding defiance
 “ to the whole representative body. It
 “ was giving the sanction of their approbation
 “ to the offence for which he had been expelled:
 “ the representative body therefore refused to admit
 “ their choice, and received among them another
 “ who had solicited it in vain.

“ This certainly was a violation of
 “ their right of choice; but was not
 “ that violation the consequence of an
 “ abuse of that right by the people?

“ The right of expulsion in the representative
 “ body, is as firmly established, as essential
 “ to the well-being of the state, as the right of
 “ choice in the people. If these, therefore, choose
 “ a person to represent them, who has before

“ fore been judged unworthy to be a
“ member of the representative body,
“ that is actually an invasion, and virtu-
“ ally a denial of that right, because it
“ frustrates the exertion of it. The peo-
“ ple, therefore, were evidently the first
“ aggressors, and gave occasion to that
“ invasion of their rights of which they
“ now complain.

“ Not that the representative body is
“ justified by that aggression in their in-
“ vasion of the right of election; a right
“ to which they owe their existence as
“ a representative body, and all the rights
“ and powers annexed to it. One act of
“ injustice cannot be vindicated by ano-
“ ther. They should have rejected the
“ person whom they had judged unwor-
“ thy of being admitted to be among
“ them, as often as he should be chosen;
“ but they should not have admitted one
“ who was not chosen. This was pu-
“ nishing one act of injustice with ano-
“ ther. But so it is, and so it ever will
“ be. Human frailty will predominate
“ in

“ in every thing subject to human conduct.

“ As to the other fact complained of, the seizure of private papers, that is capable of still greater extenuation than this. It was founded on custom, sanctified by long use, and never expressly determined to be contrary to law till in this instance. Besides, it is now effectually guarded against for the future, and therefore no longer a subject of just complaint: and these are the grievances of most consequence which are complained of. The principles of our government are founded in the purest wisdom, and observed as nearly as human weakness can keep to a rule so near to perfection.”

This information has given me a clue, which will guide me through that labyrinth of political contest and altercation, in which I have hitherto been bewildered.

Nor

Nor is this the only obligation which I owe to my noble friend, for such he has honoured me with the permission of calling him. He has admitted me to intimacy, so that from henceforward I shall have recourse to him for information in every difficulty; happy to have a guide, who, I am certain, will not lead me astray.

He had but just departed, when I received an invitation, or rather mandate, from one of the prelates of the religion of the country, to go to him at a particular hour to-morrow morning; to which I necessarily returned an answer of obedience.

What can this mean? Surely neither my actions nor my words can have possibly been misconstrued into an offence against their religion? I keep a watch over my lips, that a syllable escape not reprehensive of their manners, customs, or laws; much less of their religion, the tenderest of all points. But why should I fear? I am in a land governed by
established

established laws, where innocence is a
 sure protection. And yet, I wish I knew
 what I am summoned for.

The End of VOL. I.